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Editorial.

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Our space for some local matters, and for correspondents, is much abridged this week by the long, and highly interesting report of the late meeting of the *Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture*, at Barre.

The attendance of all the meetings was large, and the audiences attentive and intelligent. These gave inspiration to the speakers, so that a large amount of valuable facts must have been impressed upon the minds of many persons; not *new* things, perhaps, but facts which have very often been repeated, and greatly disregarded.

The Board is accomplishing an excellent work. Its influences will reach the persons needing them the most by visiting, as it does, various sections of the State, and thus drawing around it the interest and good will of all.

The reader may say that he has heard most that was said before. This may be true to the reading and progressive farmer; but there are still thousands who are not yet out of the old, beaten ruts of indifference. Some of these, at each gathering of the Board, will catch the spirit of progress, and leave those old paths for the clearer light that is dawning upon them. Even if some of the statements recently made are erroneous, no matter; they will find those ready to grapple with them, and in the contest the *truth* will be elicited.

We earnestly commend to all classes to attend the meetings of the Board,—and women as well as men. The discussions are open to all, and most questions presented would be likely to find some satisfactory reply. The Board is an educational Institution, with able teachers and practical men, and all farmers should avail themselves of the privileges which it offers.

A HORSE AND A DOOR.

"A farmer tried to pass through a narrow door side by side with his horse. It was a question of human *vs.* equine compressibility. He hopes to become rounded out again in time."

That is, we suppose, he got a tremendous jamming, which may be a sufficient lesson to teach him to know better than to do so hereafter. A man who will habitually take a horse through a *narrow door*, knows very little of what a horse remembers, or what is fair treatment to the animal. One single blow of the hip against the sharp corner of a doorway, *is* sometimes sufficient to ruin a valuable horse. But when that blow has been several times repeated, the horse becomes valueless, because he has become a highly dangerous animal.

We have seen a horse whose hips were never healed, after striking two or three times in passing through a narrow way. A six-foot wide barn door, he considered too narrow; he would plunge through it like an enraged elephant, and woe to man or boy who was in his way. And six feet did not always prove wide enough, for in his frantic exertions to escape a blow, he would again and again inflict one more damaging and painful still.

It is no uncommon thing to see, in the barns of farmers, passage ways so narrow that the body of the horse will nearly fill it as he passes through. This is better than one with four or five inches each side, as there is less room for side movements of the horse, and less opportunity for a powerful blow.

Another dangerous practice is the leading of horses out of the barn floor, by the side of loads of hay, grain, &c. A slight blow upon the hip, will sometimes so excite a high spirited horse, that the person leading loses control over him, and he escapes upon the jump, banging his shoulders and hips as he proceeds, leaving patches of skin and hair, as evidence that he has got through!

Many a valuable horse has been ruined in this way, and many a valuable one can be saved by never leading him through a narrow space.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Backwoods Wedding, by Mattie," forwarded some time ago, is a well written story, having many excellent sentiments and fine touches of humor. We do not publish it, because it seems to us that the picture of country life which it presents is an exceptional case, even if it be a true one. It is hardly possible that two young hearts should be so indifferent to the solemn responsibilities which a wedding contract incurs as to indulge at the moment in any frivolous employments or expressions. Try again.

The long evenings have now come, and with them a comparative leisure, for those who work on the farm. We hope a portion of this time and leisure will be devoted to reports of last season's operations, with such deductions from them as are appropriate. As much true progress can be made by a free interchange of information regarding the modes of culture which have severally been practiced in rearing stock and crops, as in the labor and observation called out in producing those crops.

Communicate to us, then, freely, through the winter, your modes of culture in the crops you have produced, the observations made upon them, the conditions of the season, demand and value of products, and best modes of securing, storing and preserving them.

With regard to stock, some farmers are adopting modes of feeding which, although they may not be entirely new, have not as yet been generally received. It will be a favor to the whole of our craft to learn what success has attended the *soiling* of neat cattle, instead of turning them to pasture. If the experiment has been made—and we know it has by some—state how it was conducted; what crops were employed to take the place of pasture grass, how often fed and watered, what amount of grain used, and how much of the time the stock was kept in their stalls during the twenty-four hours. So of all other crops, modes of managing the soil, best kinds of stock for certain localities, experiments in draining, seeding to grass, fertilizers used, commercial and home made, and among other things that important, and ever-pressing question,—"How can our pastures best be restored?"

Let us have something upon horticultural matters. Quite a large number of our readers are engaged as fruit and flower growers, and can greatly enrich our columns and benefit the whole community, by imparting some portion of their valuable information to others.

And such is the case with market gardeners; those who take early products to market, strawberries, asparagus, early potatoes, turnips, and other fruits and vegetables than those named. It is a duty of the farmer to *give*, as well as receive. A common interest exists among us all, as cultivators of the soil. Let us, then, copy the examples given in other callings, and impart such information to each other, as will tend to improve and dignify our great art.

Several communications are on hand, for which we shall soon find a place.

[Reported expressly for the NEW ENGLAND FARMER.]

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

BARRE, Dec. 5, 1872.

The subject before the Board was a paper by Prof. SLADE, on the recent epizootic disease among horses. After the reading of the paper a general discussion ensued, in which Prof. AGASSIZ explained that a man might be fitted to *discover* scientific truths, and not be a suitable person to make a practical *application* of those truths. And so, too, a man well fitted to apply science, could never even *learn* to *discover* knowledge. In order to discover facts, a great many observations must be made. He invited breeders of pure stock to send him the carcasses of such animals as might die on their hands, that he might have the skeletons for examination and preservation. Said he wanted a great many specimens of all the large animals, but he could not get them because they cost too high. The only vertebrate animal of which he had been able to obtain more than one hundred specimens was the codfish. These were given him by the marketmen, after they had been kept till they *smelt too high*.

Dr. Bates said, he had no doubt but what the apples, and cider and vinegar, had done sick horses good. Horses like such acids. Thinks the treatment in many cases had been abominable. They were doctored too much. Liked good and reasonable nursing. The human family should be better *housed* and *cared* for and *doctored* less. Further remarks were made by Messrs. Fay, Sturtevant and others, and the meeting adjourned to half-past seven in the evening, (Wednesday,) when President Clark, of the Agricultural College, gave a lecture on Botany,—its relation to agriculture. The hall is again well filled with an eager and earnest audience. The weather thus far could not have been better, and the members of the Board seem to be very cheerful over the apparent success of the meeting.

The lecture of President Clark was, of course, a scholarly paper, and was delivered in his vigorous, workman-like style. He alluded to the fact, that while in Europe all the noted Universities had connected with them very extensive collections of plants and trees, yet in the United States we had no such collections of any magnitude. Many people suppose that Botany only treats of flowers. Many plants are flowerless. Some suppose Botany to consist in gathering collections of plants. So Botany is something more than a mere description of plants. Botanical gardens were formerly called physic gardens, and Botany is the child of medical study, as is chemistry the child of alchemy.

Many people object to the Latin words used in scientific books, but Latin words are no harder to remember than *new* words in other languages, while the advantage of their use, is, that they can be and are understood all over the civilized world. The mental culture and mental discipline afforded the young man who will take up a study like Botany, is of the greatest value to him.

He touched on the increase of plant structure by cells. Puff balls have been known to throw off 66,000,000 of cells per minute! Each young tree has a root, then a stem, then leaves, buds, flowers and fruits, containing seeds by which it is enabled to propagate itself. But vegetation does not exist for itself alone, but to give support to animal life.

The classification of plants is a necessity. The traveller can understand the character of plants in any part of the world, according to the amount of his previous study and preparations. Compared the different results or effects of a tour of the world, on the minds of a common sailor and that of an Agassiz. The man having the best education will learn most, and accomplish most, whether at a meeting of the *Board of Agriculture* or any where else. He dwelt on the many forms of fungus growth. The yellows on the peach, mildew of the grape, smut of grain, ergot of rye, often caused by wet land or wet weather. Rotation of crops is a partial remedy. All plants are subject to fungi. Potato rot is an instance. Thirty species infest our grasses. Epidemic diseases on man or beast are the result of fungous growth. Then there are species that are useful as food. In the subterranean catacombs of Paris, there were, in 1867, beds of mushrooms twenty inches wide and twenty-one miles in length. The yeast and vinegar plants are fungi, and without them we would be deprived of our raised bread, our alcohol and acetic acid.

He referred to the destruction of trees on our public domain, and their influence on the climate. Our ancestors made a great mistake when they cleaned our hills of trees, burned them over, sowed rye, took a few small crops of pasture grass, and then left them in the state we find them to-day, all over New England. European countries have immense parks, supported by their government. Henry Ward Beecher first begun to realize the magnitude of the work of creation when he undertook to change the location of a small hill. We shall realize the loss we have sustained when we come to the work of replacing the forests we have and are destroying. Forestry is taught in Europe. The sooner it is understood here, the better it will be for the country. Our rock maple is one of the best trees, all things considered, we can grow. It is valuable for shade, timber and sugar. Thirty pounds per year is the largest yield recorded from a single tree. Our staple productions have been said to be ice, rocks and timber. Our valuable fruits and forage plants, with few exceptions, are exotics.

Florists are collecting new specimens all over the world. One man collected in Australia, and sent home to England, in five years, 190,000 different kinds of named plants! Is it not time that America should begin to do her share? Our young men should be "head gardeners," instead of having those positions filled by foreigners. The Agricultural College needs thirty acres to be used as a botanical garden, and $50,000 are needed as a fund for that purpose. Harvard College is going to use $100,000 at the Bussy farm, for an arboretum. *Knowledge* is worth working for. *All truths are of inestimable value to mankind.*

After the lecture, the members of the Board and friends from abroad were invited to join the citizens of Barre and take part in a social entertainment at the grand old homestead of MR. JOHN T. ELLSWORTH, the ex-member of the Board, from the Worcester County West Society.

Carriages were in waiting at the door, and after a ride of some mile and a half, about 150 persons were made to feel *very much at home*, either in happy reunions or in making new acquaintances. Prof. Agassiz, who is handled by his many friends as carefully and tenderly as a baby, was able to be present and shed the influence of his warm heart and noble soul over the little group who are always gathered around him wherever he may be, to listen to his words of encouragement or wisdom. After spending a couple of hours with the family of Mr. Ellsworth, the carriages were again at the door, and the company dispersed to their various homes.

This morning, (Thursday,) another sleighing party was made up for a visit to "Rocking Rock," some three miles away over the hills of Barre, Mr. Ellsworth's "big team" taking the lead. Here we listened to a few words from Prof. Agassiz, on the probable history of these great boulders that lie on the summit of a considerable range of granite, and were dropped into place so nicely that they have been rocked back and forth on their pivotal bearing, by the force only of a single hand. Within a few years the boys on some holiday have gathered in such numbers with their levers and old rails, that the rock has been moved a little out of position, so now it no longer rocks. On account of the sleigh ride, the meeting was opened this morning a little late.

Mr. FLINT read a letter of invitation to the Board to take some action in view of the World's Exposition, to be held at Vienna, during the coming summer. Messrs. Slade, Flint and Stone, were chosen a committee with full power to represent the Board. Mr. Hubbard, of Brimfield, was invited to the chair. The first paper of this morning was read by Mr. Andrew H. Ward, of Bridgewater. Subject,—*Manures* and *Fertilizers* and their *Applications*. After reading from a large collection of tables of statistics, relating to the values of different kinds of manures and foods, he took the ground that farm yard manures are not worth their cost. Or, in other words, farmers cannot afford to keep farm stock for the purpose of making manure; better purchase soda, ash and other chemicals, because all the ingredients found in farm manure, can be bought in the market cheaper than they can be made on the farm. The Speaker sold all his own manure this year, and used manufactured fertilizers instead. He allowed that farm manure was the type of all good fertilizers, because it contains all the ingredients of plant food; but it loses by evaporation and by leaching, and must be applied in its recent state, for its value is very much reduced by keeping. All kinds of manure, whether natural or artificial, should be applied often, and never on frozen ground, but should be worked into the soil just when the crops need it, or be applied, as on grass, just before rains that will carry the valuable salts directly to the roots.

Agricultural Societies have been at great expense in instituting trials of farm machinery, as the mower, horse rake, tedder, &c. They should also cause experiments to be made in the use of commercial fertilizers, in connection with farm manure. He showed the audience a diagram, explaining how the different parcels of land should be laid out, so as to determine the relative value of all the kinds used, and also their relative value on all the different crops grown. [I presume the lecturer is aware that the Michigan Agricultural College and State Board of Agriculture, have for many years past been making just such experiments, and that they have very often been quite unsatisfactory, as evidence either for or against the value of the different fertilizers used.

In the Secretary's report for the year 1868, Mr. Miles, speaking of certain experiments made, says, "It will not be safe to draw any general conclusions from the results above given, as the peculiarities of the season undoubtedly had a great influence in determining them. A wet spring, followed by a very severe drought during the summer, presented climatic conditions, that were not favorable to comparative experiments in the application of manures. Under the most favorable circumstances, however, a comparison of the results for a single season, could not furnish the desired information, as to the relative value of manure applied in different ways. The effect upon the crops which follow in rotation, must, of course, be taken into account, before the question can be fully answered."]

On the whole, the lecture was a very good one on the subject of manures. A considerable part of it was rather dry, because made up from a large collection of tables of statistics on the relative value of manures, the component parts of different kinds of food, &c., &c. Tables of figures and statistics are very valuable as matters for reference and study, but I always skip them and go directly to the *bottom line*. If the lecturer *could* have skipped some of his figures and given us only the bottom lines, it would have been less tedious. The audience, knowing, as many of them did, that Mr. Ward has commenced the manufacture and sale of a new fertilizer, called "Ward's Fertilizer," were expecting that he would say something about it. But, like *Artemas*, another of the "Wards," who used to lecture on *milk*, he did not even make mention of what we *supposed* would be the subject of the lecture.

At its close, Dr. Wakefield, of the State Pauper Institution, at Monson, said, I understand you are a manufacturer of some kind of a fertiliser. I for one would like to know something about it. What is it? What is it made of, and where can it be obtained, and how much does it cost?

The lecturer then went on and gave a sort of an autobiography of his life, his successes and failures, his troubles with the United States Revenue Collectors, his experiments at making vinegar, raising beets, farming on Nantucket Island, and feeding cows and horses on palm oil and molasses. Also, his experiments in analyzing soils, and growing crops in flower pots, to determine the value of the different fertilizers used. Thought fish pomace one of the cheapest manures; four tons equal to one ton of best guano. His own fertilizer was, however, better and cheaper than anything he knew of. It costs the *buyer* $50 per ton, and ten pounds is of equal value to one load of manure, for grass.

A. W. Cheever, of Sheldonville, asked if he meant to say that ten pounds of his fertilizer, costing only twenty-five cents, was worth as much as a load of good stable manure, and if so, what do you understand to be the size of a load of manure? He said he meant *just that*, but of course a load would be a little indefinite. He objected to telling what his fertilizer was made of, for fear we might lose our interest in the matter. Said of all he sold last year, he had heard of but three total failures.

President Clark.—What we want is not opinion, but knowledge. Farmers have a *right* to know what fertilizers contain. If Mr. Ward can furnish those ingredients cheaper than any one else, it is perfectly right for him to do so, and the people will be glad to become his patrons. We have scientific knowledge enough in Massachusetts now, so that we can know the value of any fertilizer in the market. But there is one thing we cannot know. We cannot know that all the fertilizers made by one man are as good as the sample analyzed. Nor can we know that it is as good this year as it was last, or that it will be as good next year as it was this. Human nature is not strong enough to withstand the temptations that surround a manufacturer of commercial fertilizers, a horse jockey or a liquor dealer. Who believes there was ever a liquor dealer who never adulterated his liquor? So important a matter as making and selling fertilizers cannot safely be left to the sole control of the manufacturer. In Europe, the selling of manures that are of less value than they are represented to be is a *crime*, and punished as such; besides, the dealer is held responsible for all damage that may come to the farmer in consequence of using such inferior articles of manure. We need more stringent laws in our own State, and cannot be safe till we have them.

Col. Stone, of Dedham, supposed we had already laws enough, if they were only enforced. Just as we have laws enough to suppress liquor selling, if they were only enforced.

President Clark.—Our laws will not be of sufficient force till it is made a *crime* to cheat in commercial fertilizers.

Mr. Lewis, of Herkimer, had always noticed that farm yard manure *agrees* with his land, and he had tried to make all he could. Would like to use more than he can make, but has not full confidence in his fellowman. If Mr. Ward is going into the business of making fertilizers, he must go in as an honest man. Then he must *continue* honest, and then he will be the "*noblest work of God.*" Agricultural facts cannot be established in one year. The isolated condition of farmers is against their progress. People talk of the farmer as *independent*. He is the most dependent man I know of. City men associate with each other. If an opportunity occurs where they can see a chance to make a pile of money out of the community by combining, they will combine in twenty minutes! They are the men who talk at public gatherings, at cattle shows, of the independence of the farmer, but they are very careful not to soil their hands by trying to gain such a state of independence.

Farmers do not enough realize the value of farmers' clubs. If you have not one here in Barre, then form one, and do not try to be too formal about it. Have them go along free and easy. That is just it: free and easy. And do not make every one try to stand up the first time he tries to speak, or to read an essay. At his own club, at Little Falls, a young man came in one evening with an essay, and tried to stand up and read it. Pretty soon his knees began to shake; his voice trembled, and finally, I said to him, "do for heaven's sake sit down and take breath." That essay was afterwards published and copied by nearly all the agricultural journals of Europe.

Mr. Lewis is a remarkably easy speaker, and can keep an audience in a roar of laughter whenever he pleases. His hen manure story is a good illustration. He values it very highly. Pulverizes it and adds two parts fine, dry loam to one of manure, and puts a small quantity in the hill for corn, covers with dirt, drops the corn and covers that also immediately. And he thinks hen manure is worth, for raising corn, more than the value of the corn consumed by the hens. And now, said he "I am going to tell you what I call a big story about the value of hen manure. I once applied one bushel of hen manure to a field of mangolds and increased the crop *ten tons*. 'How is that for high?'"

Mr. Wetherell thought the editor of the *Old Farmers' Almanac* ought to put somewhere in its weather column something like this, "Look out about this time for the appearance of certificates from venders of patent manures." Farmers have not yet learned to save the manure made on their own farms. In many cases, all the liquid, which is worth more than the solid portion, is entirely lost. Then the solid part is thrown out under the barn eaves, where one-half of its value is wasted, leaving not more than one-fourth of the original value of the whole amount in any way available to the farmer. Farmers had better invest in barn cellars and absorbents than in patent manures.

President Clark urged the study of Prof. S. W. Johnson's works on "Manures," "How Crops Grow," and "How Crops Feed." He had analyzed specimens of Coe's Superphosphate that contained values above the price asked, and in three years afterwards, analyzed specimens that were not worth one-fourth the price asked.

Capt. Moore, of Concord, never uses any fertilizers sent to him for trial. If he uses any he gets it in the open market. He does not want to have his name used in recommendation of a fertilizer of which he knows nothing, only that he had some that was *said to be like it, that was good*. Has lately been using ground lobster waste, with quite satisfactory results, although chemists had failed to find much value in it. Thought that did not speak very well for college learning.

Mr. Lewis was sorry to hear his friend Moore speak in that strain about college learning. The colleges are of great value in aiding farmers. We must experiment and note results; note every part; but we cannot learn it all alone. The colleges will help us. They are not "stuck up," but are willing to impart all they know. If it were not for his family and his surrounding associations, he would even now, at his age, enter an Agricultural College, and begin at the foot of the ladder and do his best to get to the top. The dinner hour having arrived, the meeting adjourned.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 2 o'clock, / Dec. 5, 1872.

Owing to various circumstances, the programme as originally announced was necessarily changed. Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, who was expected to be present at this hour and open the discussion of Fruit and Vegetable culture, being unavoidably absent, the Hon. Levi Stockbridge, Professor of Agriculture in the Massachusetts Agricultural College, took the desk, and announced the subject for discussion to be "*Mowing and Pasture Lands.*"

The speaker commenced by referring to the efforts that had already been made by the Board of Agriculture to enlighten the people of the State on this very important subject. Spoke of the writings of Secretary Flint, Mr. Hyde, of Lee, and Mr. Johnson, of Framingham. By publishing these papers a great amount of valuable information had been spread abroad over the State. Now what has been the effect of all this? What the influence on the public? What is now the practice of the farmers? In 1865, Massachusetts cut less hay than in 1855, if there is any dependence to be placed on the census reports. Judging by the *common practice*, the hay crop is of little consequence. *Common practice* indicates that any land is good enough to grow hay, and then that the *quality* of the hay is of little account; is not worth taking much pains about. One kind of hay about as good as another. Only get the barns filled, and it is not much matter what they are filled with. Then the condition of the fields, whether rough or smooth, rich or poor, is of little consequence. If fields are manured, it is done late in the fall, on frozen ground, and the manure left in heaps, till spring, or the manure is applied in coarse lumps and left to dry and waste, doing the grass plants but very little good. So the common practice indicates that it is not best to spread anything but manure. Nor does the tramping of cattle, or the gnawing clear down to the roots of the grass do any serious harm. Then, too, those pastures are best that produce the greatest amount of bushes and brakes and weeds. Nor is it worth while to ever manure pasture lands, or carry anything on to replace what has been, and is constantly being taken off. Judging by the prevailing practices, these are the opinions of the public.

Does this agree with the teachings of the Board of Agriculture? They say, the hay and grass crops of the United States are worth annually 500 to 600 millions of dollars. They say, do not sell your hay unless you wish to grow poor. Raise it on your best grass land. Then keep it in grass. Use the best manure you have, both animal and mineral, and make the best composts you know how to, and apply always in the fall, and the earlier the better; if possible, just as soon as a crop is removed. It then acts as a mulch and gives the grass a good growth in the fall that will protect the plants through the winter, and make it strong for the next year. Do not be too avaricious. Cultivate close to each of the roots of all, and entirely destroys some varieties. Never feed or cut late in the fall, but leave a sufficient growth on the ground to ensure against winter killing. Once brought into grass, keep it in grass without ploughing. Sow a great variety of seeds, two or three kinds of clover, timothy, redtop, orchard grass, blue grass, &c. Then of our pastures, the Board says, they are growing poorer and poorer every year. Formerly they produced plenty of good beef, butter and cheese. Now it is the reverse. One of the causes that has brought about this change is, that we have been making animal structures from these pastures, selling them, and returning nothing. A part has been used to enrich other fields, but much leaves the farm forever for the sea, through the sewers of the cities.

From one-fourth to one-third of our pasture land should never have been taken from the forest. The hills, many of them, should not only be allowed, but assisted to get back to the forest. They would then shelter our fields, soften our climate, and give us gentle rains instead of damaging floods. The members of the Board have faith to believe, indeed they *know*, that we must return what has been carried off. The pastures have been robbed of bones, of nitrogen, of phosphate of lime, and potash. These can all be returned to the land by top dressing. We *can* do it. The remainder of these lands should then be cultivated by the plough. This is what the Board of Agriculture tells you. And *I say* this is the gospel in relation to mowing and pasture. The hay crop alone is rated at a value of 400 millions of dollars annually in the United States. But then this is not a money value, as much of it is never sold, but is consumed at home. It is a crop, however, having a money value, and as such, I wish to call your attention to a few facts having a bearing on the subject. There are 100,000 animals in Massachusetts that are not on farms. These consume 200,000 tons of hay that is bought, and this makes a home demand. We ought to supply this ourselves, and not let the money go off to other States. In the northern part of Vermont, and New York States, hay is worth at this time $12 per ton. The stable keeper here has to pay about $35 per ton for the same article when it reaches his barn. The difference between these figures goes to the dealers and to the railroads. Now if the Vermont and New York farmers can afford to sell hay for $12 per ton, cannot we get up Yankee wit enough to afford to sell at $35, and not reduce the condition of our farms? All can do it, who can buy stable manure and cart home as they return with the teams that carried off the hay. And cannot those who are situated beyond the reach of stable manure do it by the use of composts, made in part of minerals and drugs? I believe you will yet be able to do it.

Massachusetts consumes, yearly, *cattle products* to the amount of $500,000 more than is raised on her own soil, as in beef, butter, cheese, &c. *Common opinion* says, the farmers of Massachusetts cannot afford to raise beef or manufacture butter at common prices. But we must go to the far off pastures of Texas for our beef, and to the prairies of the West for our breadstuffs. Had we not better try to produce our own? To the same number of persons, there are ten cattle in Holland to one here, and they do not complain that they cannot afford to raise beef and butter. We can double our products if we will go to work at the foundation of the subject.

I differ from many members of the Board in regard to ploughing grass lands. I do plough, and I believe in it. Does it do any good to stir and expose the soil of our cultivated fields, (especially clay lands,) to the action of the atmosphere? If tillage is good for cultivated crops, why not try it on our grass lands? The Board say, because the newly-seeded fields have many bare spots and waste places that produce nothing, while old meadows have a close, thick turf, and that the quality of the hay is better, besides being greater in quantity. *I* say plough occasionally. There is no grass land in Massachusetts but what should be ploughed once in five or ten years. But instead of sowing only timothy and clover, I should sow a variety of grasses, and in two years get as good a turf as before. I can grow more hay in ten years by ploughing and re-seeding two or more times.

People differ in their selection of soils for grass. Some think grass land should be cold, while corn land should be warm. Now grass plants are adapted to cold land, if we understand the term rightly, but not to land that is made cold by stagnant water. It should be moist and cool, in consequence of its absorbing power, and for its ability to retain the moisture taken from the atmosphere.

Next let us look at meadow fields as a place to raise hay to sell. And here I must urge you to depend upon irrigation, wherever it can be made practicable. If the sage lands and barren plains of Colorado, the hills and mountain sides of France, Germany, and Italy can be made fertile and profitable under a system of irrigation, why not the meadows of Massachusetts as well? We have a land of brooks, rivers and streams. I believe we can, by irrigation, raise two crops of grass a year for a long term of years; not on land covered by stagnant water, but on such as is well underdrained; at any rate, we ought to try it.

Our pasture lands should be improved in the same manner. By improving them we can supply our home markets. The speaker said he pitied that man who had a hundred acres of pasture covered with bushes and rocks. But much might be done even with such land, and to a profit. One way that had been recommended by Secretary Flint was to cut the bushes, then to *overstock* with sheep, and make up the deficiency by feeding cotton seed meal. In this way you are enriching the land by feeding the cotton seed at the same time that the sheep are killing many of the bushes. Bushes can be killed by mowing, if done persistently, and often enough. First pull up the largest with oxen; but don't stop there; sow seed, and drag, hoe, or rake it in, according to circumstances, and do not be afraid to apply some kind of fertilizer to your pastures.

Now what are you going to *do* about it? Wait for a miracle to come from the Agricultural College? It never will come. Science is good for nothing to the man who sits with his arms folded, waiting for science to do something for him. The colleges will help us all they can, but we must do the *work*, after all. If these suggestions are carried out, it will add hundreds of millions of dollars to the aggregate of the agricultural productions of the United States.

At the close of Professor Stockbridge's address, the President of the day, (Mr. Hubbard,) invited discussion on the subject of mowing and pasture lands.

Mr. Allis, of Conway, was called for. He responded, by stating that he was one of a committee of the Franklin County Agricultural Society on the "Improvement of Grass Lands," and if agreeable to the meeting, he would like to read a part of his report on that subject.

Mr. Slade, of Somerset, desired to take up the subject originally announced for that afternoon, namely, "Fruit and Vegetable Culture."

Col. Stone, moved to close the discussion after hearing Mr. Allis' report, say at four o'clock, and Mr. Allis then went on to give a statement of his method of reclaiming and underdraining waste land, and bringing it up to a very high state of cultivation, and at a cost that would leave him a handsome profit. He drains with stones; digs the ditches three feet deep, and fills about half full of any kind of stones that are convenient, packing them in the bottom of the ditch as closely as possible, without making any sluice way; then finishes off with small stones, covered with hemlock boughs, or brush, or leaves, or whatever he can find to keep the dirt from falling in among the stones before it gets well settled. Has such drains thirty years old, and in perfect order. Does not believe tiles are cheaper than stones, after the ditch is dug, and the stones drawn to the ditch bank, as some have claimed. His draining has not been done by proxy, but by himself and his men. Whenever he has stones to be picked, he draws them to the side of a drain where they will soon be used, which he thinks is better than tipping by the roadside, or in the corners of fields to be overrun by weeds and briars. In digging, he begins by ploughing, and throwing out the furrows, then follows with pick and shovel. Does not put his drains more than half as near each other as most writers recommend. The land he is talking about is not wet meadow, but springy slopes that are too wet to cultivate in their natural state. In 1862, ploughed up four acres of wet, poor, rough land, and laid 120 rods of underdrain. In 1864 and 1865, applied manure and superphosphates to the value of over $1600. Receipts in tobacco for the two years $4000. In 1866, seeded to grass and obtained very heavy crops. Raising tobacco he thinks tends to make good farmers. They learn to cultivate their land better, and especially to save and make manure. They keep their cows stabled nights all the year, and use absorbents to save the liquids. He did not say what he thought of chewing or smoking tobacco.

The hour of four o'clock having arrived, Mr. Root of Barre, said that, on account of the people of that section having been great sufferers the past few years by the droughts that have so reduced their grass crops, he would be glad to have this subject continued. There being but little opposition, Col. Stone withdrew, or asked a reconsideration of his motion previously passed. This was carried, and the discussion was continued by Mr. Goodman of Lenox, who gave an account of his troubles with hardhack, and delivered a short eulogy on Mr. Greeley as a farmer.

After him, President Clark explained to the meeting, the difference between the hardhack of Mr. Goodman's farm, and the hardhack known to the farmers of Barre. They were both hardhack, but that name was not significant at all. If people would learn the Latin names of plants they would have less chance to dispute over the character of the plants they were discussing. The Latin name of a plant is the same the world over, and all can know just what it is. But hardhack in Lenox is very different from hardhack in Barre. The first is *Potentilla fruticosa*; the other *Spiræa tomentosa*, both of the order, *Rosaceæ*. Mr. Converse, of Palmer, asked, when was the right time to cut Hungarian grass? Said his cattle did not eat it very well, and thought perhaps he did not cut it at the best time.

Mr. Lewis said he had learned since he had been here, the Barre system of curing corn fodder. It is to cut it and let it lie on the top of a stone wall. Didn't know but the time might come when all their unsightly old stone walls would be needed for curing corn fodder. That would give them a "home market" for their walls.

Mr. Root asked the gentlemen from Herkimer to give his method of re-seeding his mowing and pasture lands. He said when he was seeding his pastures he bought all the different kinds of seed that he could think of, and then he bought all the different kinds the *dealers* could think of. But for mowing lands he sowed such kinds as would come to maturity at about the same time. As much as he valued orchard grass, he would not mix it with the late sorts, as redtop and timothy. If allowed to stand till the late kinds were fit to cut it would be nearly worthless as food for stock. I tell you this raising poor hay, or over ripe hay, and then buying meal to patch it up, and so induce the cows to eat it against their will, is a *very silly piece of business*.

Mr. Holland of Barre, said that, on their dry hills in Barre, fodder-corn was of great value to the farmers. Their land would not grow grass like lands of Herkimer County, but corn would do well here, even in seasons so dry that grass must stand still. The meeting then adjourned to half past seven, when a lecture was delivered by Professor SELIM H. PEABODY, of the Agricultural College. Subject: "*The Sun and the Effect of Light and Heat on Plant and Animal Life.*" The Professor explained how the distance to the sun is measured, and by the use of a large collection of drawings, showed how the sun has looked at different times through the telescope. Gave the opinion of astronomers in regard to the character of the sun, of what it is composed, its size, temperature, and color, and explained the use of the spectroscope. The lecture contained materials that have taken the life time of a great many students of laws governing matter to collect.

The audience paid very good attention, but your reporter is growing somewhat weary, and for fear your readers may become so too, he will close this report of the winter meeting of the *Massachusetts Board of Agriculture at Barre*.

It has been considered by the members of the Board, and by the speakers and the citizens of the surrounding country, a decided success. The speakers have been pleased because the hall has been well filled with earnest listeners. The audience, some of whom came twenty miles in their sleighs to spend but a single day, are satisfied that they are paid for their trouble. The citizens of Barre are entitled to great credit for their efforts to get together a large gathering of the farmers from the surrounding towns, as well as for the arrangements provided for the comfort and convenience of all parties in attendance. The reporters were especially provided with everything that would aid them in their labors, for which they are all very thankful.

At half past nine, there being no other business before the meeting, it was adjourned.

The sleighing is excellent, and to-morrow we will look towards our own home.

—Modern fowls show the result of persistent effort towards improvement as much as the present races of cattle, sheep or swine.

OFFICERS OF AG'L SOCIETIES.

At the annual meeting of the Middlesex South Agricultural Society, at Framingham, 2d inst., the following officers were elected: *President*—E. F. Bowditch; *Vice Presidents*—Elijah Perry of South Natick, S. M. Thomas of Wayland; *Secretary*—James W. Brown; *Treasurer*—James J. Valentine; *Executive Committee*—S. B. Bird of Framingham, E. L. Sturtevant of South Framingham, Richardson Goddard of Southboro', W. F. Travis of Natick. The constitution was amended so as to prohibit a President being chosen more than two successive years.

At the annual meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, Mr. Constant Newton of Edgartown, was chosen its President.

The Dartmouth Farmers' Club has organized for the coming year. William Barker, Jr., is President; Abram J. Potter, Secretary, and F. P. Potter, Treasurer.

The Concord, N. H., Horticultural Society has chosen Charles S. Eastman, President; John D. Tell and Calvin Eaton, Vice Presidents; and F. S. Crawford, Secretary and Treasurer.

The following were chosen officers of the Littleton Farmers' Club, Dec. 9th, 1872, for the ensuing year: *President*—J. A. Harwood, Esq.; *Vice Presidents*—T. C. Fletcher, J. A. Tuttle, A. P. Hagar; *Secretary*—Geo. W. Sanderson; *Assistant Secretary*—Chas. F. Flagg; *Treasurer*—J. A. Tuttle; *Librarian*—D. C. Fletcher. The Club is in a very flourishing condition; meets weekly, every Monday evening; has eighty enrolled members. The following questions were discussed the past winter: Farming in New England, Does it Pay? Rotation of Crops. Best Method of Marketing Farm Produce. Root Crops. Will a Large Emigration of Chinese to this Country be a Benefit to the Farmer? The Best Way to Reclaim Worn Out Lands. Milk Question,—at which time the price of milk for the summer months, was considered. The Profits of Small Farms, compared with Large Ones.

G. W. SANDERSON, *Secretary*.

WRONG.—In the "List of the Agricultural, Horticultural, and Pomological Societies, Farmers' Clubs," &c., on the Books of the "Department of Agriculture," at Washington, the *Old Middlesex County Agricultural Society*,—the oldest in the State of Massachusetts, if not the oldest County Society in the country,—is put down as a "Township Society."

Will the "Department" please notice an article on this subject in another column of this paper, and correct the error in the published list. The "Department" will also please notice, that, instead of *ten* County Societies, Massachusetts has *thirty-one*, each an incorporated institution, and receiving an annual bounty from the State. In addition to these, there is the "*Old Massachusetts Society*," now numbering well nigh one hundred years. We have before us *twelve* volumes of its Transactions, and these do not include any of its publications for the last twenty years, nor any of its *seven* publications previous to the year 1800.

EXCURSIONS OF PUBLISHERS, EDITORS, AND PRINTERS.—We have before us, through the kind thoughtfulness of some Brother typo—an account of the Proceedings of the Editors, Publishers, and Printers' Association of the State of New Hampshire, at several stated meetings, and including an account of the somewhat famous excursion of the craft of four States, commencing July 10, 1871.

The reports of the Excursions are happily drawn, and the pamphlet, in every respect, reflects great credit upon the Printing House of Mr. C. F. Livingston, of Manchester, N. H. We trust that these social gatherings will be continued, and that a vigorous oversight of all that affects the honor or the profit of the craft, will find a place in them.

MILK.—The total amount of milk supplied to the city of New York and Brooklyn, is 120,000,000 quarts per annum. "To reduce this," says Dr. Chandler, an eminent chemist, "to the quality of our city supply, requires an addition of 40,000,000 quarts of water, which, at ten cents per quart, costs us the snug sum of $4,

New England Farmer.

BOSTON:
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1872.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Advertisements, 1st insertion, . . . 15 cents per line
Each subsequent insertion, . . . 12 " " "
Business Notices, each insertion, . . 20 " " "
Double Column, " " . . . . 40 " " "
Reading Matter Notices, ... 50 " " "
Outs, double price for space occupied.

Advertisements must be sent in as early in the week as Tuesday, to secure insertion.
Advertisers are charged for the space occupied in solid nonpareil measure.
Transient advertising must be prepaid.
Extra display, including double column advertisements, and appropriate cuts, allowed at reasonable rates.
No advertisement inserted for less than one dollar, and no gift enterprises, lottery swindle, or any other humbug taken at any price.
Special terms for Probate and Farm Advertising.
☞ The above are *net* prices for all advertising less than $100 in amount.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Our foreign news continues quite interesting. There are reports of marine disasters from Great Britain, and serious loss of life. The death of Disraeli's wife is announced. The political situation in France continues disturbed. The majority of the Assembly are said to be opposed to Thiers, who is supported by the country. The question of dissolution of the Assembly has been brought up by a motion of the left. After a long and violent debate, Saturday, the petitions were rejected by a vote of 409 to 201, and the radicals headed by Gambetta thus utterly defeated. Minister Dufaure took a decided stand against dissolution. The weather has been very stormy, and a severe hurricane visited Paris and vicinity on the 10th. The heavy rains have caused a partial inundation of the city of Lille. A dispatch from Nantes reports the river Loire overflowed and the adjacent country flooded. The quays and lower quarters of Nantes are entirely under water. The Custom House and all the business houses in the flooded section of the city are closed. A further destruction of property is apprehended. The railways in that section are covered with water, and travel is interrupted. In Germany, the rumors of Bismarck's resignation of the Presidency of the Prussian Council excite much newspaper comment. The journals of Berlin all discuss the matter, the tenor of the opinions thus far expressed being that Prussia is the heart of Germany, that the leadership of Prussia in the affairs of the Confederation is essential to the leadership of Germany, in the affairs of Europe, and that Prince Bismarck's retirement from the Prussian Council is likely to lead to important crises in the politics of the country. An outbreak in Madrid, on the 11th, was promptly quelled, and little importance was attached to it. The Austrian finances are in a flourishing condition. From Rome it is reported that the Chamber of Deputies have adopted a resolve looking to suppression of the Jesuits.

Later advices report the safety of the eighty persons supposed lost on the ship Franklin. A Fenian meeting at Stockton was broken up in a row. President Thiers of France has announced that the city will be very far from the present condition of affairs in the Assembly is the formation of a second Chamber. He announced his willingness to retire if his course was unsatisfactory. It is now reported that Bismarck will resign the presidency of the Prussian cabinet, but continue to be minister of foreign affairs.

California advices report the Modoc Indians at Wright's Cave, and that 400 troops, besides volunteers, are in the field against them. A decisive battle is looked for. The passengers and treasure of the steamship Sacramento have arrived at San Diego. The steamer will be a total loss, but part of the cargo may be saved. At last advices the steamer was fast breaking up. Gen. Crook is vigorously pushing the hostile Apaches in Northern Arizona—100 Indians have been killed during the campaign and many wounded. Grand Duke Alexis was enthusiastically received in Japan. The Japanese mission to Corea is considered as likely to secure the maintenance of peace between the two countries. Minister Mori is to be asked by the Japanese Government to remain at his post at Washington, the anticipated change not being considered advisable.

Congress has made some progress during the week. The pension and Indian appropriation bills have passed the House. The Boston fire relief bill is likely to be delayed in the Senate. The Senate has materially amended the bill for building new sloops-of-war. The House passed a resolve against removing the names of battles of the rebellion from the army register and regimental flags. A resolve has passed providing for an adjournment over the holidays from December 20 to January 6.

The debate on the pension bill shows that 33,000 pensioners were added during the past year, more than half of whom were soldiers of 1872. Some 9000 pensioners have died or been dropped from the roll for other causes. The returns of the electoral colleges have been mostly received at Washington, by mail or messenger. Congress will count the vote on the second Wednesday in February.

The Hoosac Tunnel has been opened from the eastern heading to the central shaft. The final explosion that broke down the wall between the two bores was made on the 12th inst. It is estimated that the whole bore will be completed within a year.

Edwin Forrest, the eminent American tragedian, died at Philadelphia, on the 12th. The cable brings us news of the death of Viscountess Beaconsfield, wife of Benj. Disraeli.

Toledo, Ohio, was visited Sunday morning by a disastrous fire, two business blocks and their contents being destroyed. One fireman was killed and several others were wounded. A similar calamity befel the town of Chesterville, S. C., at about the same time, half the business portion of that place being laid waste.

The Legislatnre has finally passed the bill for the lease of the Old South church. The week has been mostly devoted to the consideration of insurance matters.

We have had some snow since our last but not enough for sleighing. The last fall was only about an inch or two. As we write, Wednesday, it is again snowing, and all the signs are favorable for the sleighing parties. It has not been very cold during the week. The sleighing in the northern portions of New England we understand is good, and quite a depth of snow on the ground.

CHRISTMAS WARE.—In season for the holidays, we desire to remind our readers that they can find a choice assortment of all kinds of glass and crockery ware useful or ornamental as they may desire, at the old crockery establishment of Homer & Lane, Union St. Nearly fifty years continuance in the same business is as good a recommendation as need be asked; but having once dealt with them, their goods and prices will be the best inducement to further dealings.

AID FOR THE EYES, obtained by visiting the store of Mr. Thomas Clark, No. 195 Washington Street, and selecting a pair of eye glasses from his extensive assortment of every variety and price. Mr. Clark is one of the oldest practical opticians in this city, having been in business nearly fifty years, making his experience in fitting glasses to suit the eye of value to purchasers. We recommend him to our readers, as many desire at this season such articles for holiday presents.

APPOINTMENT TO THE MAINE SUPREME COURT.—Gov. Perham, of Maine, has appointed the Hon. William Wirt Virgin of Portland as associate justice of the supreme judicial court of Maine for the term of seven years. This appointment is made to fill the place of Judge Tapley, whose term of office has about expired. Mr. Virgin is at the present time reporter of decisions in the court.

THE HOOSAC TUNNEL.

Union of the Eastern Heading and Central Shaft.

The work of uniting the heading from the eastern end of the Hoosac Tunnel with the heading from the central shaft was effected some days sooner than had been anticipated. On Thursday, 12th inst., the breach in the rocky barrier was made, and communication opened between the two ends. The *Advertiser's* correspondent, who was present, says:—

This morning we descended the central shaft, at about 10¼ o'clock, and a blast was made from fourteen holes loaded with nitro-glycerine. The whole blast required eighty-four feet in length of glycerine, or about sixty-three pounds, the largest quantity ever used at one time in the tunnel. It is possible that this blast made a breach sufficient to let water through. At any rate water descended mysteriously from its former level. At 1¼ o'clock a second charge, equal in weight to the first, was exploded and we advanced toward the heading. We were met, at a distance of 400 or 500 feet, by returning workmen, who announced that a hole was through. We proceeded in through a choking, blinding smoke from the glycerine discharge, to the heading, when we found that communication had been opened. Six apertures had been made, and, although they were but drill-holes and cracks in the rock, the men of the two gangs were conversing through them. Our lamps held at the opening, were immediately extinguished, so strong was the draft from the end toward the shaft.

The progress made was satisfactory so far as it went, but more was necessary. We returned an hour or two later, just as the last blast was made, and hastening forward to the junction, we found that there was a hole about a foot in diameter between the two sections. This was speedily enlarged by hand-power, and at 4 o'clock precisely a small boy was let down from the central shaft into the east end, amid the shouts and cheers of both gangs. Another person of larger size followed, and then the east end reciprocated by sending up two of the men of its gang, who proceeded to the shaft, and were the first to reach the top of the mountain from the east end without ascending its slope.

In a subsequent and more detailed account, some interesting particulars are given. It is at once evident that, had there been any doubt as to the result, the tunnel problem is solved by this opening. The two ends met within a very small distance of the point where they should have met. It may be that absolutely no variation was made, and it is certainly not more than a foot or two. Considering the extreme difficulty and the delicacy of the process of carrying down the points for direction, 1030 feet into the earth, the result is little less than marvelous, and reflects great credit upon Mr. Carl Wederkinch, assistant to Mr. Frost, the State engineer.

The great result of this day's work is to be felt not only by the contractors but by the State. As soon as the connection between the two headings is made perfect there will be a tunnel of full size for a certain distance from the east end, then a seven-foot high tunnel on grade for a certain distance, then a seven-foot high tunnel at the roof for a certain distance, then a full-size tunnel to the shaft. As has been said, water has been the only obstacle to progress westward from the central shaft. It prevented work in two ways; it must be pumped to the surface, 1030 feet, at enormous cost, and it was doubtful if pumps enough could be rigged to hoist all the water that would be made. With an opening to the east end it has become perfectly practicable to pump all the water twelve or thirteen feet to the "bench," whence it will run in pipes naturally to the east end. The pumps are ready to begin on at twelve hours' notice. Mr. Shanly's forethought has discounted this gain. Work will now be begun at once on the shaft leading westward, and as good progress is already making on the west heading, Mr. Shanly confidently expects by October next to have an opening through the Hoosac Mountain from North Adams to Florida. A few months later the tunnel will be finished from end to end, and unless other parts of the work drag, trains may run from Boston to Troy, passing on the way the second longest tunnel in the world.

A subsequent examination by the State engineer shows that the union of the two headings is almost mathematically identical. The *Advertiser* says that, when the hole was enlarged, and lines carried through from the shaft to the end on Sunday last, the total error was found to be but *five-sixteenths of an inch* laterally, and *one and a quarter inches* in level, the depth being measured from the top of the mountain! Only those who appreciate the enormous difficulty of carrying a line into a tunnel where no compass is worth its weight in old iron as a guide, but especially the exceeding delicacy of the process of carrying down one thousand feet perpendicularly similar points, can understand how great a triumph this marvellous accuracy was. We venture to say that no great work of the kind was ever done by keener eyes or steadier hands, or was more patiently, carefully and frequently verified, and the result reflects the highest credit upon all concerned.

DEATH OF EDWIN FORREST.

On Thursday morning, 12th inst., Mr. Edwin Forrest was found in a dying condition in a room of his residence at Philadelphia. The fact of his not appearing at his usual hour at the breakfast table had excited the anxiety of the household, and repairing to his room they discovered him lying on the bed, gasping for breath and struggling for life with all the power of his usual vitality. Physicians were at once summoned to his bedside, and every appliance was used for his relief, but in half an hour from the discovery of his illness the great American tragedian was a corpse. It was Forrest's habit daily to exercise with dumbbells in the morning before breakfast, and he had been engaged in his customary exercise, when he was seized with an apoplectic fit. His necktie was partially adjusted, and he had otherwise completed dressing for the day.

Mr. Forrest was born in Philadelphia, March 9, 1806, and at a very early age made his appearance on the stage for which he appeared to have a natural aptitude. He first secured reputation as an actor in New York, where he appeared in Othello in 1826, and that reputation steadily increased through a long series of years, during which he appeared in almost every theatre of North America which had, or pretended to have, high character. He was as much a favorite at the South as in the North, and was as warmly welcomed in the East as at the West. His admirers were numerous in all our cities, and were as enthusiastic in Boston as in Philadelphia, in New Orleans as in New York. When in his prime he was the most popular and the most successful "star" ever contributed by America to the dramatic firmament. He visited England in 1834 and in 1844, and during his second visit occurred the misunderstanding with Macready which afterward led to the famous Astor Place riot in New York, in 1849, during Mr. Macready's engagement in this country. The same year began the troubles between Mr. Forrest and his wife which subsequently led to their divorce. She succeeded in obtaining a yearly allowance of $3000.

For some years Mr. Forrest has retired from the stage, but again resumed his profession and of late years has played a remarkable engagement in the South and in California. He was taken seriously ill while playing at the Globe Theatre a few months since, and his readings in Boston, only a fortnight ago, indicated the decline of his physical powers, and created apprehensions which have been realized.

He has left the bulk of his property to establish an institution in Philadelphia for the support and maintenance of actors and actresses disabled by age and infirmity. The purposes of the said Home are intended to be partly educational, and self-sustaining as well as eleemosynary, and never to encourage idleness or thriftlessness in any who are capable of useful exertion. Suitable provisions are made for carrying the will into effect.

ANOTHER MURDER IN NEW YORK.—Two prominent policy dealers of New York, John E. Simmons and Nicholas H. Duryea, had a fatal quarrel on Liberty street in that city, Monday evening, Simmons stabbing Duryea to death. Simmons was arrested.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

NEW JUVENILES.

Harper & Bros. publish the fourth volume of Jacob Abbott's "Science for the Young." The subject of the volume is "*Force*," or the application of mechanical powers, and explanation of natural forces. The series is intended to convey instruction in respect to the essential principles of the sciences treated of in the several volumes. Price, $1.50. For sale by A. Williams & Co.

J. R. Osgood & Co. issue "*Off to the Geysers*," the third volume of the "Young Yachters' Series," by C. A. Stephens. It gives, in a very interesting manner, considerable information about Iceland and the Geysers, and is a "taking" volume for the boys. Price, $1.50.

Miss L. M. Alcott has written another volume, "*Shawl Straps*," a continuation of her "Scrap Bag" series—as we suppose it will prove. This is a lively, entertaining account of travels in Europe, which we have read with much pleasure. It is published by Roberts, Bros., and for sale by A. Williams & Co. Price, $1.

Dodd & Mead publish "*Granville Valley*," the fourth volume of the "August Stories," by Jacob Abbott. The style of the book is characteristic, and the series will doubtless prove quite as popular as the "Rollo" stories, and other works by the same author. Price, $1.50.

From the same publishers we have "*Elsie's Girlhood*," by Martha Finley. A young lady, in whose hands we placed it, pronounces it an excellent book, and we are satisfied to accept her verdict. Price, $1.50. For sale by Lee & Shepard.

Lee & Shepard have published another volume of the "Whispering Pine" series—"*Wearing his Spurs*," by Rev. Isaac Kellogg. We have only to repeat our previous commendation of this writer's books. They are capital reading for boys. Price $1.25.

The same publishers have issued "*Little Bobtail*," by Oliver Optic. The story grew out of some incidents observed during a visit to the coast of Maine, and is written with all the characteristics of the author's well known style. Price, $1.50.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Various matters crowding upon our space have deferred notices of numerous publications laid on our table by the leading publishers. Rather than postpone mention till after the holidays we give up a larger space to our Book Notices than is customary.

Harper & Bros., New York, are constantly increasing their catalogue by the issue of works in all departments of literature. Their illustrated "Household Dickens" has reached its fourth volume, "*David Copperfield*," which contains some sixty illustrations by J. Barnard. With its large page, clear print, attractive illustrations and neat cloth binding, this edition is a very desirable one. Price, $1.50.

Next to seeing a country with your own eyes, is the pleasure of reading a well written and handsomely illustrated account of it. Such is Charles Nordhoff's "*California*: for health, pleasure and residence." The chapters headed "What to see, and how to see it," and "The Great Sights of California—hints to travellers," contain, for all who intend visiting California, information difficult to obtain elsewhere, and just what every traveller desires. The mining interests are fully described. The benefits of the air and climate for invalids; the value and extent of the agricultural interests; the Chinese problem; wine-growing; cattle and sheep farming; and many other important subjects are treated in a most interesting manner. The engravings are admirably executed, and calculated to give one a good idea of the scenery represented. Price, $2.50.

"*A Progressive Grammar of the English Tongue*," by Prof. Wm. Swinton, A. M., is the result of an effort to meet a desire for a clearer, simpler and more objective method of teaching English than that in common use. So far as we can judge, without a practical test, we should consider it a valuable work of its kind. Price, 75 cts.

A new singing book for Sunday Schools, &c., is entitled "*Song Life*," by Philip Phillips. Every second page has an illustration and extract from the second part of "Pilgrim's Progress," and the selections of tunes and words are appropriate. Price, 50 cts.

Among the latest issues of works of fiction, by this firm, is a new novel by Anthony Trollope, "*The Eustace Diamonds*"—an interesting story—price, $1.75, and two volumes in their Library of Select Novels—"*A Girl's Romance, and other Tales*," by F. W. Robinson, a collection of excellent stories; and "*Dr. Wainwright's Patient*," by Edmund Yates, author of "Black Sheep," &c.; price 50 cts each. The above are for sale by A. Williams & Co.

J. R. Osgood & Co. publish "*Old Landmarks and Historic Personages of Boston*," by Samuel Adams Drake. It did not need the recent great fire, which laid waste a large part of the original territory of Boston, to give interest to this work, but from that calamity it has become more valuable than either author or publishers anticipated when first undertaken. The leading incidents in the history of the city, from its first settlement to the present time, and sketches and anecdotes of the prominent men who have been in any way connected with it, are given in a concise and interesting style. The illustrations are numerous, and not only show many of the landmarks and ancient buildings—giving several *fac similes* of ancient engravings—but also represent many of the fine public and private buildings for which the city has been noted, not a few of them, we regret to add, being now only a memory of the days before the fire. After a careful examination of this book, we consider that the author has made a most judicious use of the mass of material from which he has drawn the facts embodied in his work, and at the same time has so arranged and combined them as to invest every page with an enduring interest. It forms a volume of nearly 500 octavo pages, and is sold for $3.

A most acceptable volume is the complete edition of *Whittier's Poems*, containing all his poetical writings including the lately published "Pennsylvania Pilgrim," and other short poems of quite late date. Although destitute of illustrations, and bound plainly, it is a better holiday book than many a volume glittering in gold and illuminated with all the artist's skill. It is uniform in style with "Household Tennyson," and is sold at $2.

Speaking of Tennyson is sufficient to remind us of the last offering of his muse—"*Gareth and Lynette*," the latest and concluding "Idyl of the King." It is not, in some respects, equal to the other Idyls, yet there are in it many exquisite bits that read like no other poet than Tennyson, and word-pictures thoroughly enjoyable for their freshness and perfection. Price, $1.25.

From Estes & Lauriat, New England agents for D. Appleton & Co., we have several recent publications of the latter firm. The most important is a translation of the "*Handbook of Chemical Technology*;" from the German of Rudolf Wagner, Ph. D., by Wm. Crookes, F. R. S. The value of this work is best attested by the fact that it reached the eighth edition in the original, in a brief period. It is arranged in eight divisions, treating of: I.—Chemical metallurgy, alloys and preparations made and obtained from metals. II—Crude materials and products of the chemical industry. III—Technology of glass, ceramic ware, [pottery] gypsum, lime, and mortar. IV.—Vegetable fibres and their technical application. V.—Animal substances and their industrial application. VI.—Dyeing and calico printing. VII.—The materials and apparatus for producing artificial light. VIII.—Fuel and heating apparatus. Under these heads are given information respecting the latest modes of preparing iron, copper, and other metals; the manufacture of potash, soaps, stone ware, &c; the preparation of vegetable fibres, as hemp, flax, cotton, and the making of paper; the preparation of sugar, including that from the beet root; tanning; preserving meat, milk, &c.; heating and illumination; and many other quite as important subjects which we cannot refer to in detail, but which will be found abounding in information valuable to every practical man. The work forms a large octavo volume of some 760 pages, and is illustrated by over 300 engravings. Price, $5.

"*Town Geology*" is the title given to a series of lectures by Rev. Charles Kingsley, describing the geology of certain parts of England, and at the same time, in an interesting style, conveying much general information respecting the science of geology. Price, $1.

The Messrs. Appleton have commenced the issue of a series of works on popular science, to be known as the "International Scientific Series," which will be prepared by the leading thinkers of different countries, and the initial volume of which, contributed by Prof. Tyndall, is before us. The subject is "*The Forms of Water in Clouds and Rivers, Ice and Glaciers*." It conveys much novel and interesting information respecting the glaciers of the Alps. The prospectus of this series gives promise of some valuable treatises, which, prepared as far as possible with freedom from technicalities, can be read with pleasure and profit by the non-scientific public. The volume under notice contains a fine portrait of Prof. Tyndall, and thirty-five engravings illustrating the text. Price, $1.50.

Several novels accompany the above works. The uniform edition of Miss Yonge's novels has added to it "*The Dove in the Eagle's Nest*," price $1; and a novel by Julia Kavanagh, "*Bessie*," forms the 434 volume of Appleton's Library of Choice Reading—price 75 cents.

Dodd & Mead, New York, publish "*The Reunion of the Churches*," by John J. Von Dollinger, D. D.,—a series of lectures delivered at Munich. The subject discussed is one of much importance to thoughtful men of all sects, and the opinions of an able and learned man like Dr. Von Dollinger must carry weight. Price, $1.50.

The same publishers issue a biography of *Daniel Boone the pioneer of Kentucky*, by John S. C. Abbott. It is the first volume of a series of sketches of the prominent men in the early history of our country. The next volume will give the life and adventures of Miles Standish. Price, $1.50.

The Miracles of Faith, is a little volume giving a sketch of the life of Beate Paulus, a christian woman, and designed to show the efficacy of prayer. Its translator, Rev. Chas. S. Robinson, speaks in the highest terms of its merits.

Several novels, or moral tales, are among the late issues of this firm (Dodd & Mead.) A simple enumeration of their titles must suffice. "*The Lillingstones of Lillingstone*," by Emma Jane Worboise—illustrated, price, $1.75; "*Barriers Burned Away*," by Rev. Edward P. Roe,—in which the great conflagration of Chicago plays an important part in the plot—price, $1.75; "*Margaret*," by C. C. Fraser-Tytler—price, $1.75; and "*For Conscience' Sake*," by the author of "Alice Lee's Discipline."

The above are for sale by Lee & Shepard.

THE MONTHLIES.

The January magazines are coming to hand as we go to press, too late for notice. They are all for sale by A. Williams & Co.

The December number of *The Aldine* contains an extraordinary number of pictures, nearly forty in all, and thus gives renewed evidence of the generous character of its management. Among the artists whose work contributes to the attractions of the number are John S. Davis, Knesing, Schenck, Guido Hammer, Deiker, Bickmann and Offterdinger. To the literary department, the accomplished editor R. S. Stoddard, W. W. Bailey, Julia C. R. Dorr, Henry Richards, T. M. Coan and January Searle are contributors. In point of artistic execution this periodical is ahead of any other published in this country, to our knowledge. Its subscription price is $5 a year.

For sale by B. H. Smith, general agent, 23 Court St.

Political Intelligence.

XLII CONGRESS---Third Session.

On Wednesday, 11th, in the Senate, the bill for the reduction of the expenses of the internal revenue bureau was reported. The bill removing the disabilities of L. Q. C. Lamar was passed. The House resolution for a recess from Dec. 20 until January 6 was passed. The House debated the bounty land bill without definite action. The Indian appropriation bill was debated and passed.

In the Senate, Thursday, the bill for the reduction of the internal-revenue establishment was passed. The Boston fire-relief bill was discussed, but not acted upon. In the House, a substitute for the soldiers' bounty land bill was debated and passed. The pensions bill appropriating $30,480,000 was taken up and passed.

In the Senate, Friday, the Boston relief bill was referred, after discussion, to the judiciary committee. A substitute for the sloops-of-war bill passed by the House was reported by the committee on naval affairs. The House rejected a bill to reimburse the College of William and Mary for losses during the war, and appointed conferees on the difference between the two branches on the internal revenue bill. Both branches adjourned till Monday.

In the Senate, Monday, the House bill authorizing the change of registered bonds for coupon bonds, and the House bill revising the mint and coinage laws were reported from the finance committee with amendments. The Senate receded from its amendment to the internal revenue bill. Several resolutions relating to railroads were adopted, one appointing a committee to consider the subject of providing cheaper transportation from the west to the Atlantic seaboard. In the House, a resolution against removing the names of the battles of the rebellion from the army register and regimental flags was adopted, 115 to 53. Considerable new business was introduced. A resolution was introduced by Mr. Cox of New York, calling, in rather offensive terms, for information from the President concerning federal interference in Louisiana. This resolution was voted down, 79 to 99, but another, requesting information relative to affairs in that State, was adopted. The deficiency bill was considered in committee of the whole.

In the Senate, Tuesday, a bill was passed for the appointment of keepers of life-saving stations at Cape Cod and Block Island. The French spoliation bill was discussed. In the House, a bill appropriating $100,000 to aid American representation at the Vienna exposition was discussed, but not acted upon. Mr. Brooks of New York, made a personal explanation concerning his connection with the Credit Mobilier.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

On Wednesday of last week, in the Senate, the bill authorizing the leasing of the Old South church passed to be engrossed. The House passed the general insurance bill to a third reading. A resolution was introduced censuring Senator Sumner for his proposition to erase tokens of victories from the battle-flags, and was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

On Thursday, the Senate sat but thirty minutes and advanced all matters one stage, and passed through all its readings the bill authorizing the city of Salem to construct a street across South River. In the House, several amendments were proposed to the general insurance bill, some of which were passed. The session lasted nearly four hours.

On Friday, the Senate adopted an order requesting the Insurance Commissioner to report to the next Legislature the dividends, premiums, losses and amount of capital invested in Insurance Companies in the State for the last forty years. The bill concerning the liability of officers of Insurance Companies was rejected, and the bill concerning the adjudication of assessments by mutual companies was engrossed in a new draft. In the House, a resolution condemning the interference of the United States Government, by its troops, in the government of States, was refused admission, but few voting for it. The session was devoted to discussing the insurance bill, which passed to be engrossed. The Committee of Conference on the bill to establish a grade in the city of Boston, reported that they were unable to agree, and they were discharged and a new committee appointed.

In the Saturday's session, there was nothing of special importance.

On Monday, the Senate non-concurred in the House proviso to the general insurance bill, allowing the formation of companies with $50,000 capital in towns of less than 4000 inhabitants; changed the amount of interest allowed stockholders in mutual insurance companies with a guarantee capital from *six* to *five* per cent. semi-annual; added a proviso for dividing cities into fire insurance districts, and concurred in the remaining House amendments. A resolve passed to be engrossed in the House, doing away with the time-honored procession to the Old South Church, and directing the Election Sermon to be preached in the Representatives' Hall.

The General Insurance bill finally passed both branches of the Legislature, Tuesday. It does away with special charters. The House spent the afternoon in the discussion of the resolutions censuring Mr. Sumner, and adjourned without reaching a vote. An adjournment is expected this week.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

The lower branch of our Legislature has fixed the pay of each member, for this special session, at $200.

The Supreme Court has refused to dissolve the proceedings in the United States Court at New Orleans under which Governor Pinchbeck has been placed in authority. [This will insure the impeachment of Warmoth.

The House committee on post-offices will submit several important amendments to the postal code, including one intended to remedy the evil of double postage, of which there has been so much complaint. The House called to-day on the Postmaster-General for full information as to all contracts for printing postal cards, postage stamps, money lost to the government under the last stamp printing contract, etc.

Robert M. and Stephen A. Douglas, sons of the late Senator Douglass, have prepared and will present to Congress a claim for $250,000 for their private cotton and other property taken, used and appropriated in March, 1863, in Mississippi, by a portion of the army of the United States.

About a hundred claims of Americans for damages sustained in Cuba during the rebellion there have been filed with the commission to adjust such claims. No awards have yet been made. There has been difficulty about taking testimony in the island, but as a remedy it is proposed by our government to unite with Spain in appointing a joint commission for that purpose.

The House Judiciary Committee have reported a bill increasing the President's salary to $50,000. The Committee has decided that for the present it will not take action upon the bill introduced by Gen. Banks limiting the Presidential office to one term.

Mr. John G. Nicolay of Illinois, Private Secretary of the late President Lincoln, was on the 14th elected Marshal of the Supreme Court, vice Parsons resigned.

The House Special Committee on the Reorganization of the Civil Service has almost perfected a bill, and expect to report this week, but they will not ask the House to act upon it until the beginning of February.

The House Committee on Military Affairs is perfecting a bill for the erection of headstones in the national cemeteries. They will, at the suggestion of the Secretary of war, correct the defects of the bill of last session, which made the appropriation entirely too low, and they will also indicate the kind of material to be used.

THE ALABAMA TROUBLES.—Gov. Lewis of Alabama, on the 11th, sent a Sheriff to take possession of the capitol at Montgomery, in which the so-called "Capitol Legislature" is in session. The Sheriff was arrested by the Senate for contempt, but subsequently released. Great excitement prevailed, and an intervention of Federal troops was feared, but was not made. Attorney General Williams to whom the question was referred suggested, as a compromise, the resignation of the officers of both Legislatures, and a new organization, under certain conditions. This was agreed to by both parties, and they were to meet on Tuesday, to carry it out.

LOUISIANA AFFAIRS.—The President has recognized the Pinchbeck Legislature as the legal organization. The Warmoth Legislature had adjourned, in order to avoid being arrested by United States troops. Gen Smith of the United States army, with Lieuts. Hayes and King of Gen. Emory's staff, took possession of the arsenal, and the militia surrendered their arms at New Orleans, Saturday.

The Markets.

[Reported expressly for the New England Farmer.]

CROP PROSPECTS.

Wheat.—*Trafton's New York Produce Exchange Reporter* says it is very evident that the surplus of wheat in the country has been greatly magnified. The deficiency in the crop of winter wheat is greater than the public can be made to believe, but time alone can change their impressions. From the West we learn they have a large and growing demand for spring wheat from the winter wheat States; so that the surplus of spring for the seaboard is for the present quite moderate. Winter wheat has been in fair demand, but most holders are less inclined to sell, as it is very evident that we shall hold no stock at the close of the year, and are not likely to receive much during the winter, as the supply at the West is very limited and prices much above the New York market. The quality of amber wheat is much below that of last year, and the supply very insignificant. It is also said that advices from Russia and France only confirm our previous statements in regard to their surplus; it is very evident they have much less than has been stated. The reports from Great Britain are also unfavorable as regards their crop.

Statistics of the movements of wheat also sustain the above statements. This visible supply of wheat, including that in store at the principal points of accumulation, at lake and seaboard ports, (including Toronto and Montreal,) in transit by rail, and from the New York canals, Dec. 1872, was 40,673,093 bushels. On Dec. 9, 1871, there was 10,614,926 bushels held in the same way. This makes the present supply 3,785,837 bushels less than was in sight at the same time last year. The exports from the four principal Atlantic ports, from Sept. 1, to Dec. 10, were 8,287,859 bushels, against 10,514,883 bushels the same period last year. This, with the reduced stocks in sight, shows a falling off in the movements of wheat, in the Atlantic States, since Sept. 1st, of nearly two million bushels. As it is hard times at the West, and money very scarce among farmers, we may reasonably conclude that, if they had held large stocks, we should have been more largely sold than statistics show that it has been.

As to the prospects in Europe, the *Mark Lane Express*, Nov. 25, says that, in England, it is very probable that Christmas will pass with a vast extent of land unsown with winter wheat. Spring wheat will be sown to some extent, but will be quite insufficient to supply the general wants. The condition of the wheat offered for sale by farmers continues to be such that the poorer qualities cannot be used in the mills; hence the short yield will be further reduced and require more foreign wheat to supply its place. The tendency of prices, it is said, are upward, and they are higher in many European markets. Mr. Caird, a high authority, writes in the *London Times*, that, should the wet weather continue, he fears they will find the harvest of 1873 as unproductive as that of 1825 which was the worst they have had in a long time, and was the consequence of the wet autumn and winter of 1852. Mr. C. has been over the whole north in Scotland, the loss in the potato rot, and says they are likely to require for the harvest year,—September 1872 to September 1873,—13,000,000 quarters foreign wheat and flour. This is the largest quantity they have ever imported. But Mr. Caird's greatest anxiety is in regard to the next wheat crop; as the present inferior crop is followed by a bad seed time.

Hops.—There has been a large advance, and the *New York Times* quotes New York hops at 40 to 50c, with a decidedly good demand. The receipts of domestic hops in New York, have been liberal, and the arrivals of foreign unusually large; but holders are not eager to sell, at even current fall rates.

Dairy Products.—The central New York markets for cheese appear to be closed for the season. Hops are the stock in the hands of farmers and factory men is not large, and only a small portion of that is superior cheese. There has been more cheese made than in any year, though how much is not ascertained, as the packages are smaller this year than last. It would appear that the excess has been all used up in the increased home consumption. The New York *Daily Bulletin* reports a dull market for butter, and prices for cheese is firmly held at 14½ to 15 cents. The *Daily Bulletin* also has a long article on the butter market, tracing the course of the trade through summer and autumn, showing that stocks and supplies are less than expected, and concluding by saying the case has been overestimated. Hence it is concluded that butter is likely to maintain at present prices, or that they are likely to be weakened by any supplies to come forward, and that any shipments from Canada are more likely to be wanted than otherwise.

Wool.—The *Economist* reports stocks of all kinds of wool light and widely diffused, and the feeling in their views; they consider it a safe property to hold. Trade is always dull this month, and the clearness of spinning is likely to make it duller still. Manufacturers hold off until money is easier next month, then we may look for activity and excitement in the market. There has been a stoppage of machinery, but it will not prevent wool from reaching exalted prices in January and February. The wool clip of the world is again short this year. In England it is estimated to show a deficiency in the imports for ten months, up to Nov. 1st, of about 50,000,000 pounds. So we cannot look for any increase from there. In the United States 90,000,000 to 100,000,000 pounds less wool to use this year than they had last. This looks like a very large deficiency; but the New York *Daily Bulletin* has said, on had articles which very nearly sustain the above statements. One from the *London Economist* reported the imports for 50,000,000 pounds while the consumption of wool was largely increased in Great Britain.

BOSTON RETAIL PRICES.

Inside of Faneuil Hall Market.

[Corrected weekly by J. F. HILTON, No. 8, *Veal and Mutton;* RUSSELL BROS., Nos. 17 & 19, *Poultry and Game;* H. BIRD & CO., Nos. 33 & 40, *Beef, Pork, Lard and Hams;* C. C. CRANMERLIN & CO., Nos. 35 & 41, *Butter, Cheese and Eggs;* J. HALL, *Vegetables;* NEWCOMB & KROGMAN, Nos. 30 & 32, NEW F. H. MARKET, *Fish;* MERRITT & RICHARDSON, No. 1, F. H. Square, *Fruit and Nuts.*]

Butter, cheese and eggs.

Butter, new lmp 35 @ .55	Cheese, ₩ lb . . 16 @ .18
new tub, ch'ce,25 @ .40	Eggs, ₩ doz . . 38 @ .40
" 2d . . . . 28 @ .33	

Meats, Fresh, ₩ lb.

Beef, ₩ lb—	Spring, hd. qr. 15 @ .18
Sirloin steak, 33 @ .35	fore, ₩ lb . . 10 @ .12½
Round do. . . 20 @ .25	Lard, leaf . . . 9 @ .10
Rib, roast do. . 25 @ .28	Tried . . . . . 10 @ .12½
Chuck rib . . . 8 @ .10	Mutton—
Plate and ribs 10 @ .11	legs, ₩ lb . . 15 @ .18
Corned beef . . 8 @ .12	loins, ₩ lb . . 15 @ .20
Liver . . . . . 8 @ .10	chops . . . . 14 @ .20
Kidney, each . . 5 @ .7	Pork—
Hogs, round, ₩ lb 6 @ .7	Roast and steaks 10 @ .11
Haslet, sheep, ea . 5 @ .6	Suet, ₩ lb . . 8 @ .10
Kidney, each . . 5 @ .7	Pickled, ₩ lb . . 9 @ .10
Lamb—	Veal, h'd qr ₩ lb 5 @ .12
hind qr ₩ lb . 16 @ .18	fore qr . . . . 10 @ .14
fore qr, ₩ lb . 10 @ .12½	loins, ... 15 @ .20

Meats—Salt, Smoked, &c.

Pork, hams, ₩ lb 12 @ .14	smoked, ea . 1 20 @ 1 30
Bacon, do. . . 12 @ .25	Corned, do. . 50 @ .60
Shoulders, ₩ lb 7 @ .8	Pigs' feet, ₩ lb . 8 @ .10
Salt, ₩ lb . . 9 @ .12	Sausage, ₩ lb . 10 @ .12
Beef, corned, ₩ lb 8 @ .12½	Bologna, ₩ lb . 10 @ .12
Smoked, ₩ lb . 20 @ .25	Tripe, ₩ lb . . . 6 @ .12
Tongues, ₩ lb . 16 @ .18	

Poultry and Game.

Chickens, ₩ lb—	Pigs, sck'g, ea 1 50 @ 2 00
Spring . . . . 20 @ .25	Quarter, ₩ lb . 15 @ .18
Ducks, choice ₩ lb 20 @ .25	Quails, ₩ doz . 2 50 @ 3 00
Black, ₩ pr 1 00 @ 1 25	Rabbits, ea, . . 10 @ .15
Mallards, . . . 1 00 @ 1 00	Squirrels, " . . 10 @ .15
Fowls, ₩ lb . . 16 @ .20	Turkeys—
Geese, ₩ lb . . 20 @ .22	choice, ₩ lb . 25 @ .28
Green, ₩ lb . . 20 @ .22	ordinary, ₩ lb . @ .20
Partridges, ₩ pr 100 @ 1 25	Venison—
Pigeons, ₩ doz 3 00 @ 3 50	legs, ₩ lb . . 25 @ .30
squab, ₩ pr . 60 @ .75	Saddles, ₩ lb . 15 @ .20

Fruits and Berries.

Apples—	Grapes—
₩ bbl, new, 2 50 @ 4 00	Catawba, ₩ lb 10 @ . 12
₩ pk . . . 25 @ .62

New England Farmer.

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General Intelligence.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

The Rev. N. W. T. Root, rector of St. Paul's church, Portland, died at the small-pox hospital on Saturday afternoon of confluent small-pox. He was about 42 years old, a native of New Haven, Conn., a graduate of Yale College and of the Berkley Divinity School. He was chaplain of a Rhode Island regiment during the war. He has been settled at Lonsdale, R. I., Newton, Long Island, and St. Paul's Church, Portland. Six months ago he was appointed to a professorship in Bowdoin College. He has been a traveller of considerable experience, having visited Europe eight times.

Col. Lamar, who was stricken with paralysis on Friday, just after Congress had removed his disabilities, has so far recovered that he was able to go to Baltimore.

Viscountess Beaconsfield, the wife of the Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli, and a worthy and noble woman, died in London at noon on Sunday. She was married in to the noted novelist and politician in 1860, just at the time that he was under pressing pecuniary difficulties, and after he had made his first lamentable failure in the political world. Disraeli's alliance with the wealthy widow of Wyndham Lewis, who had been his friend and colleague in the representation of Maidstone, gave him new power; and the happy influence of this union he has himself acknowledged in the graceful dedication of one of his novels "to a perfect wife."

Jediah Morrill, of Waterville, Me., aged ninety-six, died on the 12th inst. Until Sunday, only four days before his death he was never known to be confined to his bed by sickness for a single day. He gave to the Universalist Society during the past year $3000 for a permanent fund for its support. He was made a mason in 1821. He voted for Grant and Wilson last month and for Thomas Jefferson in 1800, and in every Presidential election following.

Mrs. Clara Hapgood Nash of Columbia Me., has been admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of that State—the first case, we are told, in which a woman has gained full standing in the legal profession in New England.

Gen. Dix declines the escort of Battery B. of Troy, on the occasion of his inauguration as Governor, preferring the ceremony to be as simple as possible.

Private intelligence from St. Louis state that Senator Frank Blair's illness is much more serious than has been represented, and that there is little if any hope of his recovery. It is doubtful, indeed, if he ever leaves his room again, his present condition being that of helpless paralysis.

The well-known artist John F. Kensett, of New York, died very suddenly on the 14th, in his study, from some complication of heart disease with pneumonia, with which he had been afflicted since November, and from which he was slowly recovering. He was a native of Cheshire, Connecticut. When twenty-two years old he went to Europe and studied with Durand, Casilear and Rossiter. He afterwards became noted not only in his own country but in France, Belgium and England. He was a prominent member of the Academy of Design. In 1858 he was appointed a member of the national art commission engaged to superintend the ornamentation of the national Capitol. *There is* hardly an American collection that is without one of his works.

The Daily *News* says:—"Among the recent elections of the Joint Assembly of Vermont was that of our friend Capt. Sidney M. Southard of Vergennes City as Judge Advocate General. Capt. S. is known to many of our readers and to thousands in his native State as a brave and deserving soldier, who lost a leg, and came near losing his life on the bloody battle field of Gettysburgh. Mr. S. has for several years acted as local agent for the FARMER, in his vicinity.

Hon. David Choate of Essex died at his residence in that town Monday, at the age of 76. Mr. Choate was an elder brother of Rufus Choate, and has been a member of both branches of the Massachusetts Legislature. He has been for several years a Trial Justice in Essex, and has occupied many prominent positions. He was a member of the old Whig party, and upon its dissolution naturally fell into the ranks of the Republican party, where he has remained ever since. He was the last of three brothers, Washington, Rufus and David, and leaves two sons and three daughters, one of the former residing in this city.

Edward A. Pollard, editor and author, died at Lynchburg, Va., Tuesday. He was an uncompromising advocate of slavery and secession, as the Richmond *Examiner* while he was its editor, the Southern History of the War, Observations in the North, The Lost Cause, and other works of his pen strongly testify.

THE FIFTH AVENUE FIRE.—The loss of life by the fire at the Fifth Avenue Hotel last week, proved hot so great as at first reported. Eleven persons were taken out dead, and one has since died. The loss on the building is estimated at about $10,000, and to the furniture, $80,000. An investigation of the cause of the fire is in progress.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

Two blocks of ice houses at Horn Pond, Woburn, belonging to the Boston Ice Company, one containing eight and the other two houses, were destroyed by fire on Sunday evening about six o'clock. The buildings were empty and were valued at about $25,000. There is $15,000 insurance. The fire was probably the work of an incendiary.

Tuesday morning the planing mill of the Burlington, Vt., Manufacturing Company was burned. The lower story was occupied by Shepard, Davis & Company, and the upper story by Matthews & Davis, box manufacturers. Loss, $34,000; insurance, $4500.

Peterson's planing mill at Jamaica, Long Island, and Marvin's blind factory, was burned Sunday. Loss, 20,000.

The malt house of Maxwell & Co., Batavia, N. Y., was burned on the 15th. Loss $40,000; insured for $26,000.

Early Sunday morning a fire broke out in a block at the corner of Lafayette and Ottawa streets, Toledo, O., occupied by Warren & Bolwell as a coffee and spice mill, which, with the contents were entirely destroyed. Crossing the street, the fire spread to a block of four stores occupied by Walker, Halstead & Co., tobacconists, and to the Ohio stone works, which were also destroyed. The loss is estimated at $125,000, covered by $200,000 insurance, mostly in eastern companies. The buildings were all owned by Mrs. J. C. Hall, and insured for $22,000. A fireman, named James Welch, was killed; another had his arm broken, and several received slight bruises.

The fine residence of Mr. James McKehan, near Cincinnati, O., was destroyed by fire on the 12th. Loss $20,000.

The steam saw and planing mill of Otto Duker & Brother at Baltimore, was totally burned Tuesday, with a quantity of valuable machinery and stock. Loss roughly estimated at $60,000: insurance about $27,000.

A fire broke out in Chesterville, South Carolina, last Sunday morning, and before the flames were extinguished half the business part of the town was burned. The loss is estimated at $150,000; about half insured. The fire is thought to have been incendiary.

A fire at Hamilton, Ont., on the 16th, in the wool warehouse of John Harvey & Co., entirely consumed the rear portion of the building, which was densely packed with wool. Harvey & Co.'s loss will be about $100,000; insured for $62,000. On Tuesday, the smouldering ruins burst into flames communicating with Davis & Co.'s, adjoining. Their loss is $60,000; insurance, $40,000. James Turner & Co., wholesale grocers, were damaged to a large amount. The Bank of Commerce received considerable damage. The total loss is estimated at $100,000, which with Monday's loss makes the loss over $200,000.

A fire at Acton, Ontario., destroyed a tannery owned by G. L. Beardmore & Co. of Toronto, on the 15th. The loss is estimated at $50,000; insured for $20,000.

THE SLOOPS OF WAR BILL.

The Senate amendments to the sloops of war bill make practically a new bill of it and bring it much more in harmony with the views of the Navy department. The original number, ten, is restored and the restrictions as to the number or calibre of the guns to be carried, together with the provision that one-half the vessels shall be built in private yards, are omitted. The Secretary is to be authorized to construct the hulls of certain vessels in government yards and the remainder of the vessels outside, if this arrangement shall be found desirable, which, says the *Advertiser's* correspondent, is quite likely to be the case, since the government has now on hand a much greater supply of live oak than all the proposed contractors. The bill allows the Secretary of the Navy much more liberty and discretionary power than that of the House, and will be likely to form a substantial basis for ultimate enactment.

An important amendment is that which authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to contract with parties for the construction of vessels in public yards, the government furnishing material, facilities and substantially all that is necessary except labor. One of the incidental objects which the author of the amendment, Senator Morrill of Maine, expects to gain if it passes, is an authoritative test of the practical value of the eight-hour law and its operation, both on the workmen and toward the government, since the eight and ten hour system will thus be placed in fair and close competition.

A JUST SENTENCE.—The trial of Horace Blakeslee for attempting to wreck the New York and Boston express train near Windsor Locks was finished in the superior court, Hartford, on Saturday. The jury were out about twelve minutes and brought in a verdict of guilty. The prisoner's counsel desired the court to be lenient because the accused was drunk at the time of committing the act, but Judge Carpenter considered it his duty to make the sentence as heavy as possible, in view of the enormity of the crime, and ordered him to be sent to the State prison for ten years.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.—All the lists of the electoral colleges of States, excepting three, have been sent to the president of the Senate by mail, though not more than one-third of the entire lists required by law to be delivered to him by messenger, have yet been received. Louisiana sends lists from two different electoral colleges. The two houses of Congress, in joint convention, will decide which shall be counted on the second Wednesday in February.

GETTYSBURG BATTLE FIELD MEMORIALS.—The Gettysburg Battle Field Memorial Association has resolved to proceed at once to the erection of two memorials—one on McKnight's Hill, indicating the position of the Union armies of the Right and of the First Division of the First Corps, and the other on the great flat rock on Culp's Hill, indicating the position of Left and Second Division of the Twelfth Corps. The designs are furnished by Shutzures, and the material is of native granite from the battle field.

MESSRS. CHAS. REICHE & BROS. at the New York Bird store, No. 9 Bowdoin Sq., are showing the finest assortment of singing, talking, and ornamental birds ever seen in this city, and at extremely low prices. The superintendent, Mr. Holden, is a model of courtesy and is always happy to show his beautiful pets to all callers, whether purchasing or not. Buyers of Christmas gifts should not forget to look in at No. 9 Bowdoin Sq.

CADETS REPRIMANDED.—The Naval Department has issued a very severe reprimand to those cadets in the Naval Academy at Annapolis who have been abusing a fellow-pupil because he is black, and announces that no such conduct will be tolerated in future.

EFFECT OF THE BOSTON FIRE ON CHICAGO.—Chicago's building operations are very much delayed by the effects of the Boston fire, and many large building enterprises have come to a halt for want of money. Potter Palmer's great hotel is one of these. He had arranged for a large loan from one of the Hartford insurance companies just before the Boston fire, and with that assistance would have hurried his building on to completion. But the heavy losses at Boston effectually vetoed the making of large loans by Hartford insurance companies, and so the large investment which he has already made must lie idle for the present, until he can "make a raise" somewhere else. It is by no means one of the least of the misfortunes growing out of the Boston disaster, that he and other men, laboring manfully for the rebuilding of the great city of the West, are temporarily crippled. The local money market at Chicago is very stringent, the country dealers generally being behind in their payments, and fabulous rates of intergst, with the very best collateral, are freely paid for short loans.

☞ Rev. Horatio Stebbins has declined the call to the First Parish Church in Portland. It is believed that he will accept a call to the church in Cambridge, Mass.

LUMBERING IN MAINE.—Our Maine exchanges all agree in the statement that lumbering operations will be prosecuted on an extensive and vigorous scale in that State this winter. The Boston fire has stimulated the confidence of lumbermen in the future of the business. Not for many years, if ever, has there been such an interest in the lumber lands in Maine as at the present, and it is within bounds to say that there has been an advance of thirty per cent. in their value within the past year. This advance, it is stated, is chiefly attributable to the movement of the Spragues, who have purchased the great body of timber region on the Kennebec. A large quantity of other timber lands have also changed hands during the year at an advance of from $1 50 per acre to $5. It is expected that from twenty to thirty millions of logs will be cut, this winter, on the Androscoggin for the Lewiston market.

UNITED STATES PENSIONERS.—During the debate on the Pension bill, last week, Mr. Garfield of Ohio gave some statistical information in regard to the pensioners, stating, among other things, as a curious fact, that of the widows of the revolutionary soldiers who were on the pension rolls less than ten per cent. had died during the past year. Over 33,000 persons were put on the pension rolls during the year, of whom over 17,000 were soldiers of the war of 1812, and some 9000 names were dropped from death and various other causes.

THE SOLDIERS' HOMESTEAD BILL.—The land bounty bill, as passed by the House on the 12th, differs widely from the measure as reported by the military committee. Instead of requiring a residence on the land before acquiring a title or right to assign it, each officer, soldier, sailor or marine can enter a quarter section on any unoccupied lands, including the double minimum price lands along the lines of land grants to railways and secure a patent at once in the regular way, and then be as free as any holder of public lands to sell if he desires. There will be a good deal of opposition to the measure in the Senate.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—The display of rich jewelry and artistic bronzes and silver ware at the establishment of Messrs. Palmer & Bachelders is rarely attractive. Many of the articles on exhibition unite in a marked degree the useful and the beautiful, and forcibly suggest holiday presents, even without an intimation from the partner of your joys that "Christmas is coming, my dear!"

WHITE'S SPECIALTY FOR DYSPEPSIA *is the only prompt, efficient* and *safe* master of such symptoms as loss of appetite, heartburn, palpitation of the heart, dizziness, sleeplessness, melancholy, constipation, wind, mental and physical debility as well as many others which if neglected will soon place *the house on fire in* beyond the reach of any remedy. H. G. WHITE, Proprietor, 107 Washington street, Boston.

IF YOU FEEL dull, despondent, drowsy, debilitated, have frequent headache, mouth tastes badly, poor appetite, and tongue coated, you are suffering from torpid liver or "Biliousness." Nothing will cure you so speedily and permanently as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

MOTHERS AND NURSES.—Burnett's Kalliston is admirable for the sensitive skin of infants.

The World Abroad.

CABLE DISPATCHES.

Great Britain.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—A meeting in support of the Tichborne claimant was held at St. James Hall last night. The principal speakers were Mr. Whalley, M. P., Mr. Onslow, and the claimant himself. There was much disorder during the proceedings, and the parties in the audience who expressed disbelief in the alleged assertions of Sir Roger were roughly treated by his friends and hustled out of the hall.

No hopes are now entertained for the recovery of the wife of Benjamin Disraeli.

A special from Paris to the *News* says that the cafes in that city Tuesday last were dreadful. Versailles was also visited by a hurricane. The damage to property was very great and several persons were killed in both cities.

The ship Franklin, which sailed from Hamburg several days ago for San Francisco with a large number of emigrants, stranded on the coast of Vileland, an island of the Netherlands, in the North Sea, and went to pieces. Eighty persons are known to have perished.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The Lady Doughty, who was a prominent witness in the Tichborne trial, is dead. She has been ill for some time.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Reports continue of marine disasters attended by losses of life, caused by the late gales. The steamer Charente of the regular line between Hull and Dunkirk was lost while en route to the latter port and fourteen persons were drowned. Ship Radnagore, from Quebec for Highbridge, became unmanageable and was abandoned. Seven persons were washed overboard and perished.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Viscountess Beaconsfield, wife of Disraeli, died to-day. She was the wife of Wyndham Lewis, a gentleman of wealth, previous to her marriage with Disraeli. She married the latter in 1839, a few years after the death of her first husband. In 1869 Queen Victoria announced her intention of elevating Disraeli to a peerage, in recognition of his distinguished services to the State. The proffered honor was declined by the distinguished novelist. Her Majesty shortly afterwards raised Mrs. Disraeli to the peerage under the title of Viscountess Beaconsfield. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Disraeli has been without issue.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The eighty persons believed to have perished by the stranding of the emigrant ship Franklin, from Hamburg for San Francisco, off the Island of Vlieland, have been rescued.

An open-air meeting was held in Stockton on Sunday evening in favor of Fenian amnesty, in which 12,000 persons were present. The crowd was very disorderly and there was some fighting, during which several persons were injured. The English and Welch, who out-numbered the Irishmen, charged on the platform, carries off the Irish flags and trampled them in the mud. Mr. Odger was announced to speak, but failed to appear.

The laborers who emigrated from England to Brazil, to work on farms, have petitioned the Brazilian Government to assist them in returning home. Letters have been received from them giving accounts of the hardships they have suffered, and warning their friends against coming to that country.

Markets.—Cotton firm,—sales of the week, 84,000 bales. Breadstuffs steady. Bonds show more firmness; closing prices on Tuesday, were Consols 91¼; U. S. 5-20s, 1865, old, 92; do. 1867, 92; U. S. 10-40s, 88½; new 5s, 89½; Erie 42¼.

France.

PARIS, Dec. 11.—The number of petitions for the dissolution of the Assembly is greatly increasing. The Prefects of the several departments where the movement has assumed formidable proportions, have been summoned to Versailles. Members of the moderate Left favor the dissolution of the Assembly.

Duke de Broglio, a monarchist, has been elected a member of the Committee of Thirty, in place of M. Fourton, who has been appointed Minister of Public Works.

There was a terrible gale yesterday. Several buildings were demolished and others were damaged.

VERSAILLES, Dec. 11.—In the National Assembly to-day, the Deputies of the Right submitted a proposition assigning Saturday next for a discussion of the petitions for the dissolution of the Assembly.

The Assembly adopted the motion and fixed the debate for Saturday, amid profound agitation.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The Left in the Assembly is much censured for raising inopportunely the question of dissolution, and thus giving the Germans a pretext for rejecting the guarantees for the payment of the war indemnity and an excuse for refusing to evacuate the country.

PARIS, Dec. 13.—The Right will move to-morrow that the Assembly do not dissolve until the territory of France is entirely freed from foreign occupation, and will follow this up with a resolution declaring that the members of the Left are responsible for the present agitation.

In the Committee of Thirty M. Barthe, a Republican Deputy, submitted a proposition for the formation of a separate legislative body to be called the Section of Control. It is to consist of two hundred members, who shall be chosen by lot from the present Assembly, and will be empowered to reject laws passed by the Assembly. The proposal has given rise to the most excited debates in the Committee, as it virtually creates a second Deliberative Assembly.

The weather is very stormy. The waters of the Seine are rising, and inundations are threatened. The river Loire is also rapidly rising.

The ship Gustave, belonging to Nantes, has been lost at sea with all on board.

PARIS, Dec. 14.—The heavy rains in the Northeastern Departments have swollen the streams to an unusual height and several have overflowed the banks, inundating the country. A part of the city of Lille is flooded and has been abandoned. Many factories are closed and several bridges were submerged. In the adjacent country the crops were destroyed.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—The sitting of the Assembly was resumed last night at 9 o'clock. Minister Dufaure addressed the House in favor of rejecting petitions for dissolution. He spoke ironically of M. Gambetta, whose speeches, he said, were the cause of the present needless agitation.

Speeches followed from members of all the parties. The debate was one of the most violent and exciting which has taken place in the Assembly, and lasted until one o'clock this morning, when the chamber, by a vote of 409 to 201, rejected the petitions and passed to the orders of the day.

President Thiers was not present during the debate either in the afternoon or evening.

Before adjourning the Assembly adopted a resolution that M. Dufaure's speech be placarded in all the communes of France. A similar resolution with regard to the speeches of Radical deputies was voted down.

The Monarchist journals are greatly pleased with the stand taken by Minister Dufaure. The radical press maintain a tone of indifference, and declare that they will continue the agitation for dissolution.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—A Paris despatch to the *Times* says that it is more than ever evident that the majority of the Assembly is in direct opposition to President Thiers. One or the other must yield. The country supports the President.

A despatch from Nantes reports the river Loire overflowed and the adjacent country flooded. The quays and lower quarters of Nantes are entirely under water, presenting a fearful spectacle. The custom house and all the business houses in the flooded section of the city are closed. A further destruction of property is apprehended. The railways in that section of the country are covered with water and travel is interrupted.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—President Thiers appeared before the Committee of Thirty to-day and explained his position. He said that the only remedy for the present Assembly was the organization of a second Chamber. Ministerial responsibility existed already. The Executive and the Ministry were ready to retire if their acts were disapproved. He was willing to accept any other *modus vivendi* which the Committee might propose, and promised to confer freely with them to that end. The President's words had the most conciliatory effect.

Germany.

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—News has been received of Herr Manch, the German explorer of Africa, that he had arrived at Gialhmane on his way home, and was in good health.

BERLIN, Dec. 15.—The rumors of Bismarck's resignation of the Presidency of the Prussian Council excites much newspaper comment. The journals of this city all discuss the matter, the tenor of the opinions thus far expressed being that Prussia is the heart of Germany, that the leadership of Prussia in the affairs of the confederation is essential to the leadership of Germany in the affairs of Europe, and that Prince Bismarck's retirement from the Prussian council is likely to lead to important crises in the politics of the country.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—A special despatch from Berlin says that Prince Bismarck is looking exceedingly well. He will perhaps consent to remain at the head of the Prussian cabinet if Ministers Selchow and Eulenpilin, who oppose the reconstruction of the Herrenhaus, [upper branch of the German Parliament,] resign.

BERLIN, Dec. 16.—*Spener's Gazette* says that Bismarck will resign the Presidency of the Prussian Cabinet, but will remain Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Prince Frederick William is at Wiesbaden, by the advice of his physicians, to take the waters.

Spain.

MADRID, Dec. 13.—Considerable excitement was created in this city yesterday by the report that an attempt at insurrection had been made in the suburbs of the city during the previous night. It was soon announced that it was on a very small scale, and was speedily suppressed by the Government forces, not, however, before 20 persons had been killed and wounded. When these facts became known the excitement subsided, and the city has since been quiet.

MADRID, Dec. 14.—Zorilla yesterday announced in the Cortes that subscriptions to the new loan of $250,000,000 pesetas were three times greater than the sum required.

A bill was introduced in the Cortes yesterday providing for universal and compulsory military service.

The *Gazette* (official) to-day publishes a royal decree establishing a municipal organization for Porto Rico. Some of the journals protest against this action of the cousus.

Austria.

VIENNA, Dec. 14.—Herr Despretties, the Minister of Finance, to-day submitted to the Reichsrath the budget for 1873. The Minister stated that it was estimated that the receipts would exceed the expenditure by 1,200,000 florins, mainly in consequence of the increased revenue from taxes.

Italy.

ROME, Dec. 15.—The committee of the Chamber of Deputies who have under consideration the religious corporations bill, at their sitting yesterday adopted a resolution declaring the suppression of the Society of Jesus, including the chief establishment of the order in Rome, is imperatively demanded by the interests of the nation. The announcement of this action was received by the Liberal Deputies with enthusiastic applause.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 11.—The Modoc Indians have retreated to Wright's Cave, on the southwest side of Turtle Lake, Oregon, with their children and squaws, and have laid in a good supply of provisions. The cave is situated on high table land, and covers about three acres. It has an underground entrance, narrow and easily guarded. It is calculated that fifty Modoc warriors, with a number from Pitt river and several Piutes with them are fortified there. So far fourteen settlers have been killed. Henry Miller was tortured to death. About thirty of the Modocs have been killed. Four hundred troops are in the field, besides volunteers. A party of scouts, who left Camp Fairchild on Sunday, have not since been heard from, and fears are entertained that they have been captured or killed by the savages. A decisive battle is expected at Wright's Cave, provided the Indians hold the position long enough.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.—Major Green has command of the troops at Lost river, Oregon, and he expects to find the Modoc Chief, Captain Jack, soon. The only terms to be offered to the savage are unconditional surrender.

The steamer Montana arrived at San Diego this evening, with all the passengers and treasure of the steamship Sacramento. The day after the ship struck the reef, the passengers landed at San Geronimo Island, 190 miles in a southerly direction from San Diego and 10 miles from the mainland. The reef was nine miles from the island. The bedding and provisions were landed for the use of the passengers without accident. The steamer will be a total loss, though if the fine weather continues some of the cargo and fixtures may be saved. The captain, officers and 25 of the crew remained in charge of the wreck. The passengers and treasure will be transshipped to this port. The Montana will sail for Panama at daylight Friday. The total amount of treasure in the Sacramento is $335,649.

A later dispatch from San Diego, dated 6.35 o'clock this evening, says that the Sacramento is fast breaking up and there is no hope that she can be saved. Two hundred and twenty tons of the cargo from New York and 120 tons from Mexico are on board.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 12.—Major Powell, commander of the Green River Exploring Expedition, has arrived from Arizona. He reports discoveries of great interest and scientific value. Light is thrown on the mythology of the Ute Indians, and relics of extinct races and a lost civilization have been found.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15.—The latest advices from Fresco's, Arizona, state that Gen. Crook is prosecuting the campaign vigorously against the hostile Apaches in the northern part of the Territory. Five expeditions are operating in the mountains east of the Mogallon mountains. During the campaign over one hundred Apaches have been killed and many wounded. Their store and provisions at several points were destroyed. Gen. Crook's policy is to follow the Indians constantly and hunt them down in every direction.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16.—Steamship Great Republic, from Yokohama Nov. 23, arrived to-day. Grand Duke Alexis was extremely well received. The Mikado and wife are to visit the Russian fleet, after which the Grand Duke leaves for Amoor. The mission to Corea is reported successful, although the chief Embassador has not returned. The Japanese Government employ in the interior 300 foreigners, viz.: Americans, 41; English, 170; French, 69. It is reported from Nagasaki that thirty-seven Christians were pardoned and permitted to return home. Minister Mori will be requested to retain his position in the United States, instead of the recent appointee. Nakayma was nominated for the new position of Japanese Consul General at Washington.

Miscellaneous Items.

☞ Snow is two feet on a level in the northern section of New Hampshire.

☞ The number of vessels built in the Portland district during the present year is nine, and the total tonnage 2096 21–100.

☞ Captain Christopher Cook, for many years a successful whaling master from New Bedford, died on the 12th, aged 64 years.

☞ The price of timber lands in Maine has advanced 33 per cent. the past year, which is chiefly assignable to the sale of the Coburn lands to the Spragues.

☞ The name of White Mountain House Post Office, New Hampshire, has been changed to Fabyan, and Charles Hartcham appointed Postmaster.

☞ During the month of November there were 9529 barrels of apples sent over the Nashua & Wilton Railroad destined for England.

☞ Mr. Henry Fairbanks of Winthrop, Me., who was so severely injured at the Seabrook accident in October last, has so far recovered as to be conveyed to his home.

☞ Mr. A. B. Seaver, a highly esteemed citizen of Burlington, Vt., died suddenly of heart disease on Wednesday, 11th, while sitting in a chair apparently in good health.

☞ The Government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics' Association has forwarded to Congress a memorial in aid of an appropriation of $300,000 for the Vienna Exposition.

☞ A man named Gallison, and another man, were drowned in a lake in the eastern part of New Hampshire on the 9th. Mr. Gallison was a brother of Cyrus Gallison of Lowell.

☞ It is expected that the Montpelier and Wells River Railroad will be completed by the first of July next, and it is rumored that it will be leased and run by the Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad.

☞ Stillman Rich of Medford, who has been missing since November 21, was found on the 12th frozen in a small brook between Winter Hill and Mystic House. His age was 55 years. He leaves a widow and one child.

☞ Joshua Lunt of Deering, Me., aged 93 years, and his wife, Abby Lunt, aged 88 years, who have lived together 64 years, recently died at Deering, within a few hours of each other.

☞ An Alderman of New York states that by the non-payment of rents by various railroads and other corporations within the past five years, the municipality has been swindled out of some three million dollars.

☞ The Eastern Railroad last week took possession of the Boston & Maine 29-feet strip of land put into their hands by the decision of the Supreme Court of Mass., and will at once go on with station improvements in this city.

☞ The Amoskeag Company have received an order from San Francisco for two more steam fire engines, one of them to be a propeller. All the engines used in the fire department of San Francisco are of the Amoskeag make.

☞ Mr. Gilman Wheeler, for more than thirty years a prominent trader at Milford, N. H., who left that place recently to assume the proprietorship of the St. James Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida, died there suddenly on the 10th instant, at the age of fifty-six years.

☞ An almost successful attempt was made about 2 o'clock Saturday morning, by prisoners confined in the cells of the basement of the police station at Lowell, to effect their escape, assisted by a colored man named Miller, who was a lodger at the station. They had almost succeeded in their purpose when discovered by an officer.

☞ Holyoke voted to become a city at its town meeting on Friday, 13th, provided it has the number of inhabitants required, the vote standing 150 to 64. The treasurer was instructed to borrow $500 to meet the expenses of a census.

☞ The Secretary of the Interior has asked of Congress an appropriation of $282,000 to complete the purchase of two squares of ground, with improvements, in order to increase the area of public grounds connected with the capital, $400,000 having been heretofore appropriated, which proved insufficient.

☞ The upper Kennebec is now closed by ice, and navigation above Bath is suspended for the season. People were crossing on the ice at Richmond on the 11th. The Back river is also closed, and the Boothbay steamers will hereafter run to Wiscasset, connecting with the K. and L. Railroad.

☞ The supply of water suddenly ceased in Jersey City and Hoboken on the 10th, owing to the distributing pipe at the reservoir becoming choked with ice. All the machine shops and factories were idle. The locomotives on the various railroads obtain their water at Newark, Elizabeth and other points.

☞ About 2 o'clock Thursday morning, 12th, George Harmon, 17 years of age, a brakeman on the Boston and Albany Railroad, while attempting to draw a pin between two cars of a moving train in the freight yard, was knocked down and the train passed over him, nearly severing his body in twain. He was immediately taken to his home, but died before reaching there.

☞ The action of the Japanese authorities in the matter of the cooly ship Maria Luz, has created great excitement and indignation in Peru. The iron-clad Independencia will leave immediately for China and Japan, and the corvette Union, now repairing in England, has been ordered to the same destination. The ministers of Peru at the courts of Yeddo and Pekin have been forwarded ample instructions on the points in question.

☞ A Mrs. Durfee, an old lady residing on Mr. Hazard's farm in Middletown, R. I., was burned to death on Tuesday, 10th. Her clothes caught as she was kindling a fire, and before the flames could be extinguished she was so badly burned that she died that night. Mrs. Durfee is well known in Newport where she often came selling produce, etc. Her husband is an invalid, and could render no assistance.

☞ The trustees of the State orphans' home at Franklin, N. H., have voted to erect an additional building at a cost of $10,000. In the winter of 1870, the Rev. Mr. Mack, in his wanderings to gather funds to found the orphans' home, was called upon by Mary Dodge of Croydon, a woman in poor health and poverty, who persisted in leaving in his hands 20 cents as the widow's mite. She died, and her child came to the home, fell into the hands of the man who took her mite.

☞ Levi P. Green, of Lowell, was run over by the engine of a shifting train at the Northern Depot, on the 11th, and instantly killed. The head was completely severed from the body. A few seconds before the engine approached, the unfortunate man was seen lying with his head over the rail, but he could not be reached in season to be rescued. Either he fell in a fit or it was a determined effort at suicide. He was temperate and industrious, and had accumulated some property. He was about 40 years of age, and leaves a widow and one son.

Business Notices.

THE HOLIDAYS.

The Holidays will soon be here,
Sweet "Merry Christmas" and "New Year;"
Parents and friends are looking round,
To see where "Presents" may be found.
The Boys who wish for something nice,
Which they can get at moderate price,
Had better call at GEORGE FENNO'S,
And buy a "SUIT" of "WINTER CLOTHES,"
And let them not make too much racket,
While looking at his "BREAKFAST JACKET,"
Designed to make their "dress" complete,
Corner of Beach and Washington street.

What Unspeakable Relief is afforded to the burning and throbbing flesh by a single application of that unequaled balsam for pain in man or brute suffering, TAYLOR'S CAMPHORATED MUSTANG LINIMENT. The tormenting and sleep-destroying pains of rheumatism, gout and neuralgia, are completely banished by its use; stiffness of the joints and painful swellings, quickly yield to its emollient influence; it heals bruises, cuts, scalds, etc., with astonishing rapidity. For strains, spring halt, scratches, saddle, collar and harness galls, as well as the more serious external maladies of the horse, it is a swift and thorough remedy. 1w61

RHEUMATISM
AND ALL INFLAMMATORY DISEASES
ARE BEST CURED BY
Sanford's Compound Hamamelis,
OR, WITCH HAZEL OINTMENT,
Which is also the best authenticated remedy for many afflictions of Man and Beast, such as:
Burns, Cuts, Scalds, Broken Breast, Lumbago, Vegetable and Insect Poisons, Boils, Tumors, Felons, Recent Sprain, Ringbone, Scratches, Chafing of Harness, Galls, Sores, Hemorrhoids, Carbuncles, &c.
Price, 50 cents and $1 per Box. Sold by Druggists and Grocers Everywhere.
WEEKS & POTTER, General Agents, *Boston, Mass.*
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FLAGG'S INSTANT RELIEF
is so *reliable* and safe a remedy for all *sprains, bruises, neuralgia or rheumatic* troubles, and so *positive* a cure for all bowel and stomach disorders, that *every bottle is warranted or money refunded.* Try it and if not as above get your money from the druggist. 23tf

CRISTADORO'S HAIR DYE
has been used for *20 years.* Is the *only* harmless dye made. Gives most natural shades of black or brown instantly. Warranted or money returned 23tf

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Marriages and Deaths.

MARRIED.

In this city, 12th inst., by Rev. H. M. Parsons, Mr. H. W. Sayre of New York to Miss Addie, daughter of George L. Smith, Esq.

16th inst., by Rev. C. A. Bartol, Mr. Charles Enstis Hubbard to Caroline Dennie, daughter of F. U. Tracy.

12th inst., by Rev. Martin K. Schermerhorn, Mr. George F. Wheelock, Jr., to Emma Cora, eldest daughter of James W. Caverly.

12th inst., by Rev. A. A. Miner, Mr. George E. Leighton, to Miss Hattie W., daughter of James W. Leatherbee, Jr.

10th inst., by Rev. George Putnam, D. D., Henry C. Clement, Esq., of Chicago, Ill., to Miss Fannie J

Poetry.

From the Atlantic Monthly for January.

SYLVIA.

BY LUCY LARCOM.

"Sylvia!" The happy face looked up
With love's unvoiced reply;
Beneath his, deep light brimmed her eye,
As a blue blossom fills its cup
From fulness of the sky.

Sylvia! It was her wedding-day:
Her story seemed complete.
No voice had made her name so sweet
Along the rustic maiden's way,—
So rhythmic to repeat.

The sylvan, quaint, romantic name
Had drifted to her door
From the Atlantic's eastern shore,
Where some ancestral English dame
Its style Arcadian wore.

But here it breathed of rose and fern,
And salt winds of Cape Ann;
Of timid wild-flowers hid from man
Behind the gray cliff's barrier stern,
In woods where shy streams ran.

And they twain wandered in a wood
By vague sea-whisperings swept;
To soul, through sense, fine odors crept;
Within the budding air, the mood
Of tropic sunshine slept.

'Mid sassafras and wintergreen,
Elder and meadow-rue,
In dazzling bridal-raiment new,—
Glorious in exile as a queen,—
The white magnolia grew.

"Sylvia! my own magnolia-flower!"
The proud young husband said,
With creamy buds he crowned her head;
And Sylvia smiling kissed the hour
Of summer she was wed.

The years went on, and Sylvia grew
Pale at her work, and thin,
The pair no green woods wander in;
Cold through the north-wind blew;
Their bread was hard to win.

Furrowed his brow became, and stern,
As his own farmlands rough.
He called her "Wife!" in accents gruff.
Why should she for her girl-name yearn?
Was she not his? Enough.

Enough!—enough to fill the bound
Of woman's heart is he
Who leaves no treasure-worth in her free?
Who guards not for her what he found
Her life of life to be?

The tired wife's woodland name to her
Gospels of freedom meant.
And in the years' dreariness was blent;
His "Sylvia!" in her soul could stir
Long ripples of content.

But now, for dreary weeks and years
Her name he never spoke.
Into no storm her dull dawns broke.
Life was not sad enough for tears;
Her heart more slowly broke.

Sometimes, deep in an oaken chest
With ample linens filled,
The touch of a dead blossom thrilled
Into blind pain sweet thoughts repressed,
And in long silence chilled:

Again the rich magnolia breathed
Through the New England air
Its hint of southern summers rare;
Again her head the warm dream wreathed;
Her bridegroom kissed them there.

She shut the closet; she would not think
Her life the dry pressed flower
She knew it was. Yet hour on hour
More stifling grew; and sick and link
Crushed down with steadier power.

He boasted of her skilful hands,
Her quick, unresting feet.
"No woman like my wife I meet;
On all the Cape none understands
How to make home so neat."

She, proud to be her husband's pride,
For bread received a stone.
Love lives not by such bread alone;
And hungry longings woke and cried
For better things unknown.

Only by toil the wife could keep
Her girl-heart's clamor down.
Care's ashes all her tresses brown
Sprinkled with gray. An early sleep
Came death, life's ache to drown,

When, by the blank around, he knew
What she had been to him,
And, in remorseful guesses dim,
Measured the joy she failed of, too,
Thought bittered, to its brim.

He sought the sea-washed woods, where tall
Black pines at noon made night.
The flowers stood still in lovely light;
He seemed to hear that dead bride call
From every blossom white.

The warm-breathed, fresh magnolia-bloom
In hands that never stirred
He laid, with one beseeching word—
"Sylvia!" that pierced the death-dimmed room.
Her soul smiled back: she heard!

A Selected Story.

From the Golden Age.

HARD TIMES.

BY AUGUSTA LARNED.

Mrs. Fairman was a proud woman, if she did enjoy misery; and she had no intention of letting Mrs. Henslow know that the family lived on canaille bread.

Obed had been kicked in the chest by Black Bill, who was trying to run with the cart, and now he lay on the bed in the family bed-room, and Salome was with him. Mrs. Fairman had told the men folks, more than a hundred times, that they ought to sell Black Bill; but she wasn't anybody to be considered, and no heed was paid to what she said. There was one satisfaction though; things had turned exactly as she predicted they would, and that was the worst possible.

Now as she stepped away from the stove where she had been carefully covering up her little gray loaves with a crash towel, she glanced out of the window at the spring pastures that were perishing for the want of rain, and where the cattle would scarcely nibble a mouthful; and beyond to the hard-looking plowed fields that showed only the faintest shimmer of side-green oats. The wells were giving out, and springs that never before had been known to fail.

Mrs. Fairman's face had a cut-water outline, it was rheumy and pinched in at the nostrils, and lined down at the corners of the mouth. Now as she looked at the cold, bleak, brown fields, taken in connection with the canaille loaves behind the stove, it seemed plain to her mind that there was a judgment upon them; and in a vague way she connected the judgment with Obed, "who never had been under conviction since she married him," and who had seldom stepped his foot into the meeting-house at the Corners. She had read in the newspaper that the drought extended over the whole of New England, and a large portion of the Western States; but it did not occur to her that Providence was going considerably out of its way to punish Obed for his obstinacy and spiritual blindness.

A man had ridden early in the morning over from Salisbury with Whitcomb's bill, and had threatened to levy on some of the farm implements, and order a sheriff's sale unless it was paid in ten days. Mrs. Fairman knew that Obed was "drained" of money, and the prospect of being sold out of house and home, which was a thing she had so often predicted would happen, seemed dismally near.

Miss Henslow lived across the road in a little house that appeared to be always in the sulks. Now she left her goose heating, and took a section of Deacon Broderip's coat over her arm, with her big tailor's shears at her side, and went stooping across the way. She had a crooked back, and a hooked nose, with a mouth that hid itself in the big cavity of her face, and which, some way, gave one the impression of a gigantic owl. She appeared to have a three-story throat and to speak out of the basement door. She stepped over one of Salome's flower beds, where the "sturtions" could push their heads through the caked soil, and she gave a short peck on the window-pane with her steel thimble.

"I got the fidgets setting alone," she began, as Mrs. Fairman admitted her, and sat down, and let her poke bonnet fall back, showing a ring of snuffy brown hair each side of her face, done up with a big pin. "You see I dreamed of rats last night, and it's always a bad sign. The last time it happened was just before Aunt Debby Strong died. Seth Barnaby and his cousin went up to watch the last night, and they said Miss Pratt, who'd been hired to stay there, set the scantiest supper ever was. Did you ever hear about Hiram Walker's wife?" She was Aunt Debby's niece, and is coming into the property; and just as soon as she got back from the grave, she went to counting over the things, and what do you think! There was six of the old lady's best linen sheets gone."

"Dear me," said Mrs. Fairman, coming out of the buttery with her apron half full of dried apples, "these are solemn times."

The expression had great force, although it was a little uncertain whether it applied to Aunt Debby's sheets or to things in general.

"I guess they be," croaked Miss Henlow, suspending the operation of paring one of the seams of Deacon Broderip's coat. "It looks as though there wouldn't be a spear of grain raised this season; and there's Dave Blodgett, one of them Millerites—second adventers they call themselves—saying the world's going to be burnt up this year, on account of the big horn and little horn in the book of Daniel. I asked him if he wouldn't like to engage me to make his ascension robe, for I thought if he didn't come out straight in his calkerlations, I might as well have the job."

Salome stepped out of the bed-room with a gruel bowl in her hand. She was a tall girl with light hair just turning a little on gold. It had slipped out of its braid and was hanging against her white neck.

"What a mop of hair Lome has got," said Miss Henslow, when she had gone back into the bedroom. "I notice that weakly girls are apt to run to hair."

"Salome ain't rugged, that's certain," said Mrs. Fairman, who was interrupted in her calculations as to whether she could squeeze out molasses enough to sweeten the dried apple she was coring. "She ain't tough, and had to be put to hard work before she got her growth. If Sarah Jane didn't keep school to help along, I could let Salome putter round for a year or two; and then I guess she'd get hearty; for the doctor says there ain't anything chronic."

"I don't know about that," broke in Miss Henslow. "She looks to me just like Sister Patty's girl that went off with galloping consumption."

"There ain't no consumption in the family," returned Mrs. Fairman, giving a snappish little jerk to the hand that held the bread knife.

"Wal, I didn't mean to scare you, Mrs. Fairman; but then it's always best to be prepared for things as they come along."

"I'm never unprepared," returned the other dismally. "I've gone through so much that it seems as though I was always expecting trouble; and Obed, he don't seem to sense things as I do; I don't s'pose it's to be expected. Religion's a solemnizer, Miss Henslow; and now when it looks as if we all were going to starve, and the cows don't average any day more than two quarts apiece, it seems 'most a sin to be making jokes."

"Look there at Miss Dacres," said the tailoress, "Ain't she stiff-necked? I understand Jo comes here pretty often after Lome."

"He comes to see the boys," returned Mrs. Fairman with some asperity.

"Law, a young fellow can visit the boys and squint towards a girl at the same time. But I'll tell you what, the old lady won't like it if Jo means to play that game. I feel it my duty to let you know how the land lays."

Mrs. Fairman had finished coring her apples; and now she went to the sink and began plying the handle of the pump with such vigor that her neighbor's last words were fortunately lost. Miss Henslow remembered her goose heating red hot over home, so she took herself and her voice away; but not before she had got a peep at the canaille bread under the crash towel; and that same afternoon she thought it was her duty to go over to Mrs. Seth Spencer's, and tell that lady how straitened the Fairman's were.

Jo Dacres, a broad-shouldered, lusty young fellow, with a great stride, and a cheery, loud voice, was just opening the gate of the home-place. It was the smuggest, best-kept farm in the neighborhood. Simeon Dacres, the old man, was fore-handed, and had money laid up in the bank; and if there is anything country folks do love and respect and bow down before, it is money in the bank.

Mrs. Dacres always regulated her affairs by the almanac; and the first of May the sitting-room stove was taken down, whether or no; and now the house was as chilly as a cellar, with a clean smell about of whitewash and varnish.

Mrs. Dacres was waiting for the men folks to come to dinner. She had blown twice out of the back door, and the pork in the spider was curling itself up into little, hard, bilious looking, scraps. With enforced patience she came and sat down in the rocking-chair, with its puffy feather cushion, and untied her cap strings. She was a large woman, with a heavy tread and a double chin, and an immense talent for managing. In her own opinion she represented the hard-headed ethics of Burnham, and perhaps was more honest, if less nice, than some of her neighbors.

"Obed Fairman has been kicked by a horse, mother," said Jo, betraying a little hesitation in his tone. "The hurt isn't dangerous, but I think it would look friendly if you should step in and inquire how he is."

"If it ain't dangerous, I shan't stir a step," returned Mrs. Dacres, shutting her mouth in a positive line. "You do running enough over that way for the rest of the family; and I expect you'll make a fool of yourself some of these days."

"There might be two opinions about that," said Jo, rather evasively.

"Wal, you know what I think right out flat-footed! You're hanging around that girl, and I expect you will get a weakly wife on your hands, who will be whining round with neuraligy or highpo half the time. Obed is shiftless. I don't mean that he is lazy; but he aint got no kalkerlation. His wits are off wool-gathering half the time; and Salome is run out of the same piece of cloth. She's as easy as an old shoe, and would sozzle round a house and tend a lot of flowers, no matter whether there was any bread in the cupboard or not. If you are ever going to get ahead in the world, you must marry a woman that can help you push and pull, as I've helped your father—a regular staver, that can put her shoulder to the wheel, and not a bundle of aches and pains tied round the middle with a string, who will eat you up with Doctor's bills."

Here was the Burnham valuation of woman put into the plainest words; and they made Joe wince.

"Salome isn't sickly," said Jo, in a gloomy tone. "She may not be quite as strong as some girls, but I feel quite sure she will turn out a healthy woman. I have told you before, that I don't mean to marry a drudge or a slave. I shan't look out for a wife to do my cooking, and washing and scrubbing, and nothing else. I want a human companion, and if I have a man to help me on the farm, my wife shall have a girl to help in the kitchen. I shan't go and look up a wife as I would a horse. A man gets his eye on a girl, and he longs for her, and likes her—he can't tell why. She is different to him from any other woman in the world; he can't be happy without her. It isn't a thing for a fellow to be ashamed of, neither, if he's got one spark of manliness in him; and that's the way I feel toward Salome."

"Granny!" exclaimed Mrs. Dacres, bringing her broad hand down on the arm of her chair at the height of the young fellow's ardor. "Do you think your father and me is going to give the money we've just worked and dug out of the ground to feed that Fairman tribe?"

"I don't ask for your money," returned Joe, rather savagely. "I shall take what grandfather left me, and stock a hired farm, and then I shall get Salome to be my wife."

He strode out of the house without eating his dinner, and marched off to the woods to free his mind of excitement. As he was getting over the snake fence by the roadside, he saw Elder Northup stop under the cherry trees in front of the Fairman farmhouse, and fasten his horse. The elder was a little man, and his Sunday suit seemed to tyrannize over him a good deal. His coat cuffs descended over his hands, a tuft of stiff hair stood up above his narrow forehead, and he spoke with a slight snuffle.

Mrs. Fairman was ironing by the table when she saw him ride up, so she put the flat-iron back on the stove, and went out on the stoop to meet him.

"I'm so glad you've happened along to-day," said she, with her face withdrawn into its usual puckers of anxious concern. "Perhaps you've heard that Obed got hurt. He's laid up now, and I thought mebbe if you should talk with him there might be an awakening. You don't know how I have wrestled in prayer to bring Obed to conviction. I often think of what the Bible says about being unequally yoked with an unbeliever—not that I would have it thought that Obed ain't a good, moral man, kind to his women folks, and as good a provider as he can be, when the times ain't hard; but it's been a trial."

"I know it has, sister. These are all filthy rags of self-righteousness," said the elder, taking out his bandanna and wiping the dust from his thin legs. "The human heart is deceitful above all things, and despritly wicked."

Salome had been smoothing Obed's iron-gray hair. He loved to feel the touch of her delicate fingers. One big, brown hand, with prominent joints, lay on the patched quilt, and the man's face, so rugged and homely, with still a dreamy look in his eyes, was softened with an almost child-like expression of peace. Mrs. Fairman came ushering in the elder.

"Glad to see you," said Obed to the little parson, and he put out his hand with genuine warmth. "I've had a little pull back, but the doctor says I shall be round again in a day or two."

"Ahem!" returned the elder, clearing his throat; "the Lord sends seasons of affliction upon us to bring us o a sense of sin."

"I don't know about that," returned Obed, with his eyes brightening. "I ain't as familiar with the Lord's intentions as some folks profess to be; and as for trouble, I guess we bring most of it on ourselves."

"That ain't Bible doctrine," returned the elder, shaking his head rather dismally. "It may do to live by, but it won't serve in the hour of death."

"I don't know why," said Obed, whetting his argumentative weapon. "I guess what will stand in this life will stand in any other."

"The impenitent heart is in the gall of bitterness and the bond of iniquity," replied the elder, fidgeting on his chair. "How will the sinner feel in the day when the goats are separated from the sheep?"

"According to my ciphering," said Obed, "God means to take care of the goats, too. They may not be worth as much as the sheep; there's a big difference in folks; but I guess they'll go for what they're worth. At any rate, I shall take what comes, without grumbling or complaining. Though he may slay me, yet will I trust in him.' I've thought of that a good many times when I've been working alone in the field; and I guess I can take what the Lord sends; but there are some things men would like to force on me I ain't so ready to receive."

The elder couldn't think of any answer for this, so he cleared his throat, and said,

"I should like, if you don't object, to have a season of prayer."

"I don't mind your praying," replied Obed, cheerfully, "if you want to; but I guess the Lord knows all you can tell him, and a little more. Folks take a sight of pains to give him information. There's a still small voice spoken of that I have thought I heard out in the lot sometimes, with the birds singing and everything still, and my heart has answered, and I've a kind of a notion that that was a prayer."

Mrs. Fairman and Salome were whispering together in the kitchen.

"We must try and scrape the barrel," said the anxious housewife, "so as to get white flour enough to make griddle cakes for tea; then we can put on the canaille bread to look like one kind. You must tell Ezra to be sure and refuse the cakes. He's dreadful fond of them. There's the dried-apple sauce, and a little mite of plum preserves, just enough to help the elder twice; so I guess we shall manage to appear respectable."

The next day there came a change in the weather. The cold northeast wind gave away to a south breeze, and it grew warm and close. Big black clouds rolled up the sky, and anxious, longing eyes watched it, and prayed for rain.

The shower was coming when Salome went into her father's room with a letter in her hand.

"Why, child," said he, opening it, "Bunker, the man that bought the old Haynes' place, wants to get three acres off the back end of my land. It's a strong piece, but it goes cornering into his'n, and there's some folks can't bear to have a notch in a farm, and I guess he's one of them kind. He offers a big price, and the money will pay off my debt to Whitcomb, and leave me something over. It does seem as though there was a providence in it. I can't see that the Lord bears a spite to his children, but I'm ready to acknowledge all his mercies."

"O, father, it's raining," cried Salome, as she rushed to the window.

The big warm drops were beginning to patter down on the leaves and grass, and soak into the hard ground. Faster and faster it came, roaring upon the roof, while the wind swayed the wet limbs of the trees.

"That is music," said Obed, with his face all aglow. "It makes me think of where the Bible speaks about 'the fields yielding their increase, and the clouds dropping fatness.' There ain't no such poetry as that anywhere."

The shower had lasted a long, long time, and soaked into the thirsty ground, and brightened the grass, and brought out the dandelions by hundreds, and opened the pink lips of the apple blossoms. With the patter on the roof, and the great peace that had fallen on his spirit, Obed fell asleep.

Salome sat beside him. Presently there came a tap at the window. She started and turned, and there stood Jo Dacres, leaning over the low sill, backed by a lilac bush, just shaking out its purple plumes. Everything was glittering with bright drops, and a robin was singing overhead.

Salome went softly to the window, and she never forgot how that bird's song sounded. She was dressed in a pale blue calico, a glazy stuff, but it just suited her style; and now, as she leaned out, her light hair fell about her face.

"I've taken the Spinner place," whispered Jo, "and used grandfather's money to stock it. I feel as strong as fifty men, but if you should refuse to marry me, I should be as weak as a cat."

This was the way Joe proposed; and Salome just put out her hands to him, and for one moment her face was out of sight. The robin went on singing, and a tree bough showered down bright drops on Salome's hair, and the early roses began to blow, and good moist smells came from everything, and there, over the happy girl's shoulders, was a rainbow, spanning the dark cloud, which seemed to promise that there had come an end of HARD TIMES.

General Miscellany.

From the Atlantic Monthly for January.

AFTER THE FIRE.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

While far along the eastern sky
I saw the flags of Havoc fly,
As if the forces would assault
The sovereign of the starry vault
And hurl Him back the burning rain
That smeared the cities of the plain,
I read as on a crimson page
The words of Israel's sceptred sage:
For the wicked shall be kindled as the fire, and they shall burn together, and none shall quench them.

O vision of that sleepless night,
What hue shall paint the mocking light
That burned and stained the orient skies
When peaceful morning loves to rise,
As if the sun had lost his way
And dawned to make a second day—
Above how red with fiery glow,
How dark to those it woke below!

On roof and wall, on dome and spire,
Flashed the false jewels of the fire;
Girt with her belt of glittering panes,
And crowned with starry-gleaming vanes,
Our northern queen in glory shone
With new-born splendors not her own,
And stood, transfigured in our eyes,
A victim decked for sacrifice!

The cloud still hovers overhead,
And still the midnight sky is red;
As the lost wanderer strays alone
To seek the place he called his own,
His devious footprints sadly tell
How changed the pathways known so well;
The scene, how new! The tale how old
Ere yet the ashes have grown cold!

Again I read the words that came,
Writ in the rubric of the flame;
Howe'er we trust to mortal things,
Each hath its pair of folded wings;
Though long their terror rest unspread,
Their fatal plumes are never shed;
At last, at last, they stretch in flight,
And blot the day and blind the light!

Hope, only Hope, of all that clings
Around us, never spreads her wings;
Love, though he break his earthly chain,
Still whispers he will come again;
But Faith that dares to seek the sky,
Shall teach our half-fledged souls to fly,
And find beyond the smoke and flame,
The cloudless azure whence they came!

THE GREAT FIRE.

In the January *Atlantic*, W. D. Howells gives a graphic description of the great conflagration which swept over Boston on the 9th of last November. We copy the following passages:—

Now and Then.

This sense of antiquity in the scene removed to a remote period the days when I used, now and then, to give myself the pleasure of a stroll through Franklin street down into Winthrop square, and dwell fondly upon the grandiose beauty of the architecture. It looked so solid and perpetual, so free from all meanness of haste or material, that I fancied it somehow typical of Boston at its best; thoroughly substantial and impressively adapted to its use, and yet liking to be handsome and admirable. Those superb seats of commerce were really so many palaces; in Italy they would have been called so; if one had come upon them there he would have turned curiously to his guide book for their name and history; and outside of Italy I do not know where else one was to find any single group of edifices more noble in aspect. It was fine, too, that this beauty should be devoted to business, and that the homes of these merchants, however elegant, should not compare in architectural magnificence with the palaces where they met for traffic; there was something original and authentic in that. But what gave the crowning sense of satisfaction in it was its perfect security. "Ah!" you said to your friend, the stranger whom you led through this part of Boston—slowly, that it might grow upon him and crush him in his miserable assumptions on behalf of New York, or Philadelphia, or Chicago, or St. Louis—"there is nothing can touch it except an earthquake." You showed him again all that luxury of sculptured granite and slated roof. "Every inch fire-proof, you see. The whole city might burn up, and you'd merely suffer with cold down here."

And at present Franklin street, and Congress street, and Summer street, and Winthrop square have less to show for their former splendor than the Street of Plenty in Pompeii.

Many sites are separable from the others by the lines of broken walls, which lie fallen inwards. Tangled amidst the several heaps are the warped and twisted gas pipes and other iron work used in the complicated machinery of a modern house; and everything else is utterly consumed. As you look upon the scene, the obliteration of the cities of old, far more strongly built than the solidest part of Boston, is comprehensible as it never was before. Leave these ruins to the winters and summers of a hundred years, and nature would hide them so well that the owl and the antiquary would ask no more congenial haunt. A thousand years, and Baalbec or Palmyra would be as a flourishing metropolis to the burnt district of Boston.

An Impressive Spectacle.

Since Boston was fated to burn, I think any one may blamelessly regret that he was not by to see it, if he had the misfortune to be absent during the red thirty hours of its loss. As a spectacle, it must have been one of the most impressive that human eyes ever beheld, and those who looked upon it are truly to be envied. That steady and resistless destruction of the finest business architecture on the continent, by flames that melted the piles of solid granite like sand, and consumed the prosperity of long years of successful commerce, lacked the dramatic poignancy of most other great conflagrations; comparatively few homes were burned; there was little of the agony of attempts to save things dear by use and association, or of the sacrifice of what nothing could buy again; but as those millions of money were licked up by the fire and vanished forever in the crimson glare and dusky fume, all the more potent must have been the lesson of human effort paralyzed, and of human industry and achievement absolutely annulled.

The Ruins by Moonlight.

But for this unreality in them, I could not easily forgive myself for looking at the ruins in an æsthetic rather than a sympathetic mood, or for enjoying as I did a moonlight ramble through them, while they were yet in the first week of their desolation.

There was nothing more alien to our wonted life in the striking traits of that week than the occupation of our streets by the citizen soldiers, who patrolled them by night and guarded the lines inclosing the burnt district night and day. Whether they were tramping down the pave to the beat of their drums, or picturesquely grouped in front of the City Hall, or about those places where the municipality dispensed hot coffee and other refreshments, they always gave that strangeness which our nature craves to the aspect of the city, and made one feel himself a personage in dramatic events. The mounted officer out of whose way you precipitated yourself, bestowed a tragic dignity upon you by almost riding over you. But good as these good and brave fellows were by daylight, they needed the moon to bring out what was most impressive in their presence; and as my friend and I presented our passes at one of the lines, we could not repress a thrill as the moonlight glinted upon the bayonet of the sentinel who admitted us. We even admired the officer who called us back, and made us observe that our passes, lacking the signature of the commanding military authority, were not good for a moonlight stroll among the ruins. Denied at one point, what was simpler than to try at another? Here a solitary soldier, not a veteran in years, at least, opposed us with the same objection. We represented our ignorance of the new order, and the impossibility of getting the countersign at that time of night. "Well, those are my orders," said the sentry; "what is the use of my being here, if I don't obey them?" "That's so," we answered; "you must obey your orders." The sentry was struck by our prompt assent to his logic; he saw that we were true men. "You can go in," he said, and resumed his sleepless vigilance.

At other points we found the guard lounging about bivouac fires which they had kindled in the strange, desolated street, and taking with superb effect of light and shade the ruddy glare on their accoutrements, their jolly faces, and their outstretched hands, while all round them steamed and smoked the ruins in the pale lustre of the moon, and away by the water side flashed the gleeful blaze of the mounds of burning coal. As we strolled up and down the lonely avenues we met a policeman on the beat, or a patrol of soldiers; and we came again and again upon the steamers at their work, each with its little group of firemen, and each sending up with its hoarse respirations black volumes of smoke shot through and through with golden sparks. Afar off, a column of steam mounting phantasmal into the moonlight told where another was wounded. But for these infrequent sights and sounds, the whole Burnt District was empty and silent. All mean details were lost, and the spectacle had no elements that were not grand and simple. The gaunt and haggard walls, that climbed and seemed to tremble over the desolation, now stood black shadows against the moon, and now faintly caught its light through the wavering veils of smoke and vapor as our passing steps shifted the perspective, and the tall edifices that surrounded the place threw a deeper shadow upon the border and would not let us see where the destruction ended and began. It was a scene that refused to relate itself to the city of our daily knowledge; its sad magic estranged whoever looked upon it, and made him for the moment a spirit of other lands and ages revisiting the ruins of remotest time.

LIFE IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS.

Richard B. Elder's paper in *Lippincott's Magazine* for December, called "A Day or Two in Southside Virginia," contains this lively sketch of manners and customs in the Old Dominion:

Of course we had supper—country without supper is body without a soul—but not as biscuity and chickeny a supper as the night before, and consequently I had a less belligerent time of it after I retired. But why the Southside mind should be afflicted with the delirium of feather beds in August is a problem which, as we say in Virginia, "procures" me.

One of the young gentlemen rose from the table and announced his purpose of sleeping with the wheat. It was in an open shed, and liable to be stolen. When we had lighted our pipes in the porch I asked the meaning of this.

"You see," said William, "I hire only two hands regularly, engaging others by the day whenever there is a press of work. My former slaves have all left me, and I am rather afraid to trust these fellows. Besides, I want my boys to become inured to work."

Think of that!—only two hands on a farm of eleven hundred acres! And in the house, where the servants used to be in each other's way, there was but one woman. Much of the work was done by the young ladies. Here was a change, indeed! But I was secretly pleased to bear that the boys were being raised to work, and that one at least of them was more than anxious to educate himself at his own cost. It was not so with Southside boys in ancient days and had my cousin's slaves remained the lad would probably now have been thinking more about the White Sulphur than about college.

I took two long walks before I left Edgewood—one to see the old lady who lived at the mill, and the other to the Knob, a mile or more away. The good dame at the mill smoked a friendly pipe with me, chatting the while about her changed circumstances, but not repining a bit. A worthy negro man not only attended the mill, but worked the farm on shares, his wife doing the cooking and washing.

"And do you really live here alone, without a white male person nearer you than half a mile?"

"Oh yes," said she, "and get along very well. People talk about negroes stealing, but I have lost only one pig, and I believe that died or got drowned in the creek. Old age and poverty, Dick, are my protectors, and very goods ones, too. My only fear is that the cook will induce her husband to move to town, and then I know not what will become of me. Poor as it is, I love my home, and will cling to it as long as life lasts."

The last sentence put me in a melancholy frame, which the walk to the Knob by no means diminished. There is a point on the road which overlooks the plantations of the neighborhood nabobs of the old days. Vast fields which had been in cultivation ever since I could remember were rapidly growing up in pines. Leaning on the fence (it was a worm fence) I looked on this increasing wilderness and fell a-musing, a most meek and melancholy musing, which might have continued till sunset if some wanton chigoes had not crept up my breeches legs and recalled me to the stern realities of life.

OREGON LUMBER.

In a lecture by Hon. Wm. A. Howard of Michigan, we find some highly interesting information respecting the lumber supply of Oregon, particularly that part adjacent to Puget Sound. Even in the best days of our down East lumbermen, they could boast of no such monsters in their forests as Mr. H. describes.

There is more lumber around Puget Sound than I ever saw before. There is one channel called Hood's Canal, that seems to run from Port Townsend, sixty or seventy miles toward the Columbia River, and perhaps not averaging over half a mile wide, and if one-half of what people said about the timber growing there was true, and it was here in this market, it would build the Northern Pacific road. The timber is fir and pine. There are three kinds—the white, the yellow and the red, the red predominating. It has a coarse grain, more like hemlock, but is free from knots, and the wood between the seams that separates the layers is of a red color, and soft. This kind of tree grows to an enormous size. Indeed all that the timber thieves there think of, and exert their ingenuity for, is to find trees small enough to handle to advantage, not liking to grapple with the big ones. We went through a portion of this forest when we went to Olympia by stage, and it was very rare to find a tree as small as three feet through at the butt. They were from five to six, seven, eight and sometimes nine or ten feet through at the butt, and marvellously tall, some 250 ft. high. What would you say if I stated that I saw a tree that would make an amount of lumber more than the average for five acres in Michigan? Every one that knows pine lumber lands in Michigan knows that 10,000 feet is more than an average, taking the whole of the pine lands of the State; perhaps 8000 would be the fair average. At 10,000, five acres would have 50,000 feet. Now suppose we take a tree ten feet through; that ought to square six feet. A piece of square timber one foot in length would contain 30 cubic feet, or of board measure 432 feet. Suppose you went on in that way until you had worked up 200 feet, you would have 200 times 432 feet, that is, 86,400 feet, and then you would have 70 or 80 feet beyond that left. I saw there trees 10 feet through at the butt, sound as they could be, straight as an arrow, more than 250 feet high. It does not make very good finishing lumber, as it is coarse. But all over there are enormous white cedars which even grow on the islands and which make very fine finishing lumber. I was told at Olympia that this white cedar brought $40 per 1000 at Portland.

GEN. WARREN'S BRAVERY.

"The boy is father of the man," and men, distinguished for noble qualities, show what is in them in early years. Joseph Warren was one of the noblest citizens of Massachusetts, just before the Revolution; and, had he lived, might have competed with Washington for the command of the army, and the first presidency of the Union. His death at Bunker Hill closed suddenly a career of highest promise.

His courage was shown in college life. While a student at Harvard, his classmates were plotting mischief against the authorities, planning a kind of rebellion. They knew he would oppose their movement, and held their meeting in an upper room, with locked door. He heard of what was brewing, and begged for admittance, but was refused. His ingenuity and courage baffled their plans. Going into the college yard, he noticed that the window was open, and within reach of the wooden gutter running along the eaves. The action followed the thought. Climbing the tin spout at the corner of the building, he caught hold of the gutter above, passed along hand over hand till opposite the window, when, by a violent effort he swung himself in. The wooden gutter gave way, and his classmates, startled at his courage and his narrow escape, yielded readily to his persuasive words, and the rebellion was at an end.

"THE PRICE OF LIBERTY."—How much does the reader suppose the Revolution cost per annum? Seventeen millions and a half of dollars; about six days' expenditure of the late war. Such was "the price of liberty." The debt of the United States in January, 1790, was $54,124,464 56; of which nearly fifteen millions were arrears of interest; and, besides this general debt, there was a chaos of State debts amounting, as the secretary erroneously computed, to twenty-five millions more. Not eighty millions in all; not a month's expenditure during the rebellion.—*Atlantic Monthly for January.*

Ladies' Portfolio.

GRANDFATHER'S DARLING.

Grandfather is past ninety, and little May but four,
Yet they love to sit together beside the cottage door;
And as the old man dances his darling on his knee,
He tells her of the far-back time when he was young as she.

Those long and rambling stories May oft before has heard.
But she listens with wide-open ears to every well-known word;
And in her mind she wonders if he remembers too,
The man who lived in Noah's ark, when this old world was new.

Grandfather's hair is scanty, and white as driven snow,
While May's rich curls are golden, kissed by the sun's warm glow,
But as the young head nestles fondly against the old,
You see the sunlight blending the silver and the gold.

Grandfather is not book-learned, but from his early youth
He has striven to walk heavenward, and loved the way of truth;
And now he clasps his darling as the day is getting dim,
And both together murmur a simple evening hymn.

His stalwart sons come round him—all well advanced in years—
And tell him how the world goes on, with all its hopes and fears,
But from their modern gossip he turns away to hear
The childish prattle little May is whispering in his ear.

Folks call the old man childish—it may be even so—
His heart is as a little child's, and this we love to know;
And somewhere it is written that not the wise alone,
But those who live in child-like faith, our Father calls his own.

Grandfather is past ninety, and little May but four,
So they will not sit together long beside that cottage door;
But we know when the old man from earth is called away,
His God and hers will still protect his darling little May.

For the New England Farmer.

CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATIONS.

Christmas has its own symbols and tokens, and in trimming our apartments, although we may have a choice in material and method, we must bear in mind the object of the decorations, and not err in taste.

Evergreens are fitly emblematical of Christmas, of the Nativity which we commemorate, and although flowers may be mingled with them they are only episodes, and delight our eyes by their sweetness and beauty.

The mistletoe and holly, were not used originally as Christmas emblems, but were the selection of the ancient Norsemen, and employed in the decoration of the olden "Yule-tide" which corresponds with our Christmas tide. *Yule* or "Hiaul" signifies the Sun. In the old Runic almanacs a *"wheel"* is the symbol of Yule, as it denotes the annual course of the Sun.

Ancient tradition relates that the mistletoe was once a tree, but as the cross which was sanctified by the Savior was made from its wood, it dwindled to its present state of a parasite, forced to take its support from another tree. In our household merry making and decorations, we can bind tender memories into our garlands, and while we make our parlors sweet with the breath of the wild woods, and the fragrance of flowers, and the cordial greetings of loving hearts, we can hang up a branch of laurel or of evergreen oak as a substitute for the sacred mistletoe, whose branches are rarely found excepting at the South.

And in placing this substitute, it is well to make a wheel of box, laurel or some rare evergreen, and fasten the special evergreen to it, the "wheel" being the specific symbol of the Season.

Let us give a word of advice about the selection of evergreens. Hemlock is not durable, as its tiny needles will drop and make a litter not desirable upon carpets. Spruce, juniper, arbor vitæ and fir are essential for most kinds of trimmings. Ivy leaves, laurel and box are also useful for preparing emblems and letters.

The holly is also beautiful for this purpose, and is very abundant in some localities, while its bright berries are particularly ornamental; but if they cannot be obtained, we can substitute the scarlet orange berries of the bittersweet, and wanting both these, we can roll up bread pills, and make them brilliantly red by dipping them into sealing wax dissolved in alcohol. While the berries are soft, a small wire can be thrust into them, and they are easily arranged into clusters after they have become well hardened. Ground Pine, Princess Pine and Coral Pine, are all needful for our work, as their flexible stems admit of graceful festoons; and brilliantly colored woman leaves can be added to them by the aid of thread or wire. A garland thus arranged is truly a regal adornment.

In decorating a house, due regard must be given to its architecture, and it is well to commence the work by following the principal outlines with a garland, as straight lines with a few fitting angles will often produce a charming effect.

Entrance halls require much trimming of this kind, simply following the architectural designs, and only enough of emblematic symbols to suggest the occasion. The reception room needs only a slight decoration, but the parlors and dining room require the use of all your resources both in taste and material.

There are set designs, such as crosses, anchors, stars, triangles, trefoils and quatrefoils, which are all graceful and elegant, when wrought by tasteful fingers, with box, laurel, mosses, immortelles, or fresh flowers; but if used too plentifully they are not pleasing—the effect is degenerated.

An endless variety of designs can be made if one will but exercise ingenuity and fancy; but don't make your wreaths too heavy and thus detract from their graceful outlines. Single branches of the coral pine, or of ivy, are far more effective when trained about picture frames than heavy wreaths of evergreen.

Enduring and beautiful garlands can be made, which will adorn a parlor for several months, out of the deep green cedar, interspersed with the soft silvery puffs of the Clematis, and the glowing orange of the bittersweet, and the jetty black berries of the ink berry. Virgil says "Trimming of the temples with flowers, boughs, and garlands was taken from the heathen people who decked their idols and houses in such array."

Chandler thus accounts for the origin of adorning the houses and temples of the ancient Celts: "They were decked with evergreens in December, that the spirits of the woods might repair to them, and remain unnipped by the frost and cold winds, until a milder season had renewed their darling abodes.

Stow says that "they not only adorned their houses and churches with evergreen boughs, but also the crosses, standards and conduits in the streets were decked with whatever the year afforded to be green." It is a pleasure to think that this pleasing custom has outlived hundreds of years, and the associations between rejoicings and green boughs, festivals and flowers, are very beautiful. In ancient times, Christmas leveled the barriers between peer and peasant. The Yule log blazed for several days, and huge oxen were roasted, and mighty tankards of ale were drawn, and all were welcome to eat, drink and be merry. The rich man could not have eaten his Christmas dinner with any relish, if he supposed the poorest swineherd upon his estate lacked the luxuries of the season. And one of the ancient carols says,

"Old Christmas is come to keep open house,
And would scorn to be guilty of starving a mouse."

S. O. J.

PRICES AND STYLES OF FURS.

Serviceable, handsome furs have come within the reach of moderate purses, owing perhaps to the ingenuity displayed by furriers in the adaptation of skins formerly unheard of. Seal-skin sets of a fine quality are to be had very low. These look well with walking dresses, soften the complexion, and last, though not least, do not attract moths. They are preferable to the coarse qualities of mink, which wear lighter, and are hard to protect. The fur known as Alaska sable is somewhat lower in price than seal-skin. It has a very rich effect, and is preferred by many. The price of Russian sable puts it beyond general reach, a muff and boa costing from $150 to $800. Ermine has decreased in price. This is the most becoming of all furs, but is reserved for carriage-dress and evening wear. For use no fur excels the black Astrachan, and the price is very moderate. In this climate such a set is very desirable. Thus muffled one can face all weathers, as rain does not hurt the fur. Trimming furs are sold by